

Learning Spaces

Goal – Utilize our current space to maximize student learning.

We are moving from traditional factory assembly line education format to a custom personalized education. Students will regularly work on projects, collect data, do research, use e-books, edmodo, complete video projects.

Teachers will increasingly move away from a lecture teaching method and move toward a research based format where teachers are more like coaches or coordinators and are focused on individual students and small groups. The teacher's role is different, not easier. Teachers will oversee students and moving them to succeed requires strong knowledge of each student and strong relationships (like an advisor). Students will work on projects and in teams of small groups.

The school day will be structured differently. We will be emphasizing what students need to get accomplished and not where they need to be at what time. Students will move from center to center across classrooms using ipads to do most of their work as well as to keep track of their progress. Collaborative learning will require flexible spaces (big enough for large groups or several small groups, or several individual work areas). We will need multi-purpose spaces with flexible furniture with easy access to technology.

We are moving from a one-size-fits-all approach to teaching to this personalized learning. Technology is used as a tool and resource, not as a visual aid or talking head.

Furniture will move away from student desks with chairs and toward tables, rolling chairs, and reading nooks.

In traditional learning, students were taught in batches. Some were left bored or disengaged and not learning what they ought to be learning.

In Personalized Learning, the emphasis is on mastering something before moving on. The grade you are in is de-emphasized in favor of where you are in the continuum of learning a content area.

Classrooms will need the following to facilitate student engagement / collaboration / connections between teachers and students / flexible physical arrangements:

- a.) Many electrical outlets
- b.) Multiple display/work surfaces
- c.) Rolling and swiveling chairs
- d.) Movable tables
- e.) Mobile/multiple whiteboards to record student work
- f.) Semi-private breakout spaces connected to main learning spaces
- g.) Wide aisles both horizontally and vertically
- h.) All students easily visible, seating begins near to instructor area
- i.) Instructor stations with tablet PC-like technology
- j.) Reliable network connectivity
- k.) Printing/copying availability
- l.) Robust lighting controls
- m.) Tables for groups of 4-6 to work at easily and face-to-face
- n.) Synchronized clocks that work
- o.) All students can hear instructor and vice versa, quality sound system