Classroom Redesign: Learning Spaces for 21st Century Learners

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Sketch to Stretch

Sketch a bird’s eye view of your classroom floor plan.
Teacher Nerds Unite!

Thank you for joining us! As a first or second year teacher, you are primed and ready to be a reflective practitioner and improve your craft! Thank you for joining us today!
Turn and Talk

What factors influenced the “look” of your classroom?

Describe how your different furniture arrangements contribute to the types of learning activities you use.
Gallery Walk: Things to Think About

- What do you notice about the setting?
- What are the students doing?
- How does this match or mismatch with what you know about 21st century learners?
Synthesize the Gallery Walk
Whose classroom is it anyway?

- Involve **students** in the design
- Allow **students** to modify the design based on their learning
- Neutral, monochromatic tones and colors that are gender sensitive for **students**
- Classroom should be “**student-centric**” not “**teacher-centric**”
Unwrapping 2E: Organizing Physical Space

- Safety and accessibility
- Arrangement of furniture and use of physical resources
Spaces for quiet and noisy activities are provided
Furniture arrangement allows for large and small group activities
Centers for exploration of content in the form of labs, circles, etc.
Furniture provides good traffic flow;
Materials are accessible;
Teaching aids, boards, charts, projectors/computers are skillfully positioned and utilized
Students are involved in supporting an organized, safe classroom through assisting with transitions, equipment, materials and supplies
Elements of 21st Century Classroom Design

- Every part of classroom is **purposeful**
- Variety of spaces and places
- Flexible seating & **open** floor space
- Furniture easily arranged to **promote collaboration**
- Student choice
- Promote attention, structure, access and order
Elements of 21st Century Classroom Design

- Whiteboards & bulletin boards lowered for students to reach & work together.
- Organize supplies within students’ reach. Assign class jobs to share the responsibilities for resources.
- Add a touch of MakerSpace with a Maker zone in the back of the room. A shelf, a pegboard, & a workbench make a great start!
- Designate a place for students to gather as a whole group for mini-lessons & wrap-ups, separate from their workspace. Keep a mobile cart nearby to easily project from your laptop.
- Kidney desk + your desk = space efficiency. Maintain your office space by docking out shelves & cabinets behind you with all your supplies.
- Add casters to student chairs & tables to give them flexibility in where they choose to work.
- With throw pillows, bean bags, video game chairs, etc. make comfortable places for students to work & think independently or in cozier groups.
- Carefully curate your classroom library. Include picture books (even for older students) & a variety of levels & genres. Read as much of it as possible!
- ABSENT: sticker charts, card-turning pockets, names on whiteboard, & other unnecessary extrinsic motivators.

Design on a Dime

Repurpose existing items

Curbside finds

Garage sales

Dollar Store
Start Small

Lower existing tables

Move desks to the perimeter

Bathroom rugs/yoga mats/placemats

Stackable chairs

Multipurpose crates
FAQs

Do you have a seating plan?

How do you keep students from arguing over seats?

How do you ensure students are selecting smart choices on where to work?

What do your colleagues think of this? Administrators? parents?
Sources


