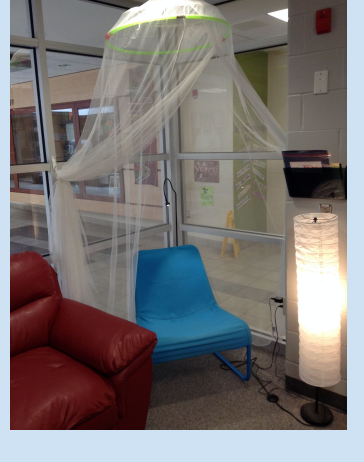


Designing a Learning Commons

Define the Space

Establish the purpose of a specific area using:

Netting
Personal space



Furniture
Group Work



Shelving
Group work



Decoration
Personal Workspace



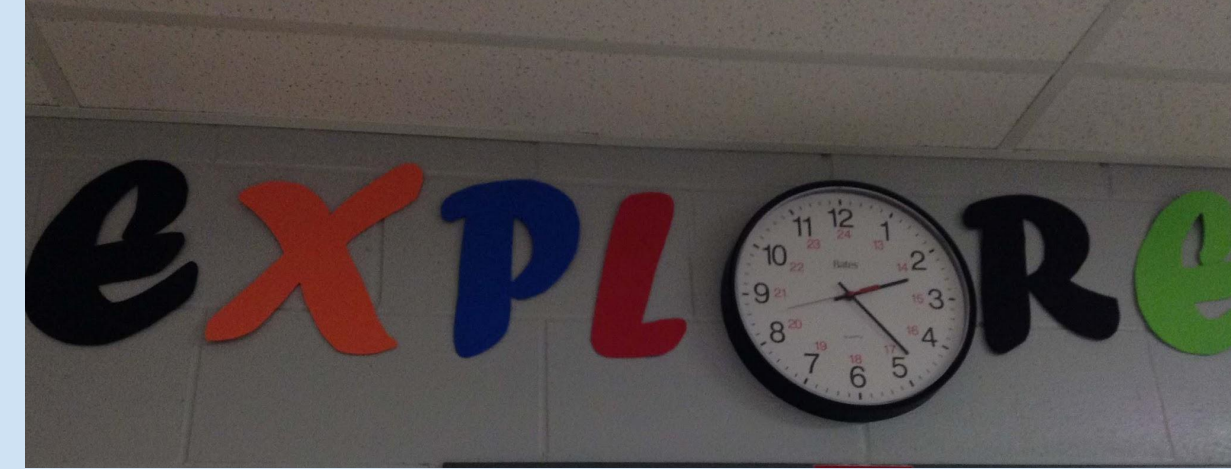
Design the Space

Colour & Signage

Make a small specific area pop with a bright colour

Use signage that is specific, short and fun

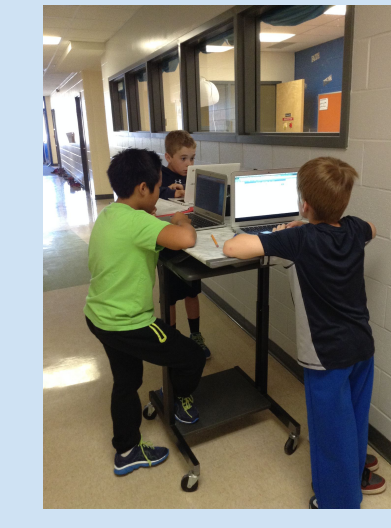
Remember to keep the area tidy, clean and free of clutter



Flexible Space

Put Shelving, cupboards, carts on wheels

Use folding tables and benches that can easily be put away to suit the environment you need

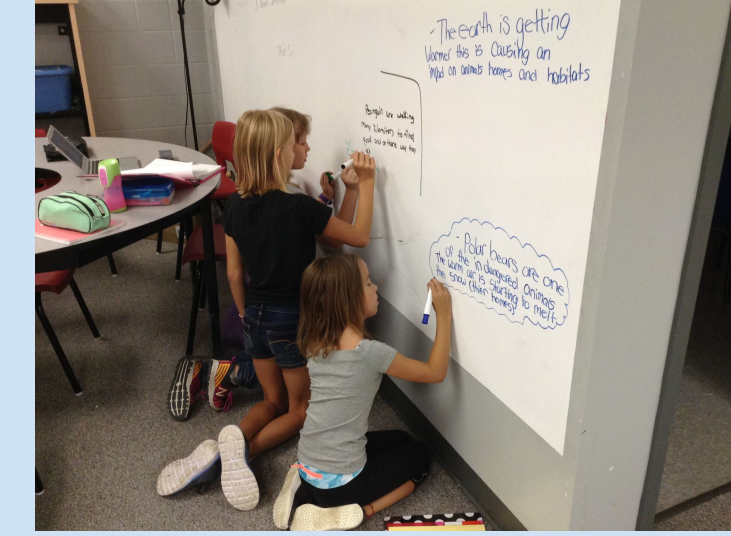


Cushions or foam blocks can be put in many different configurations for large or small groups

Be flexible in where and how your students work to make their space be the best for their learning needs

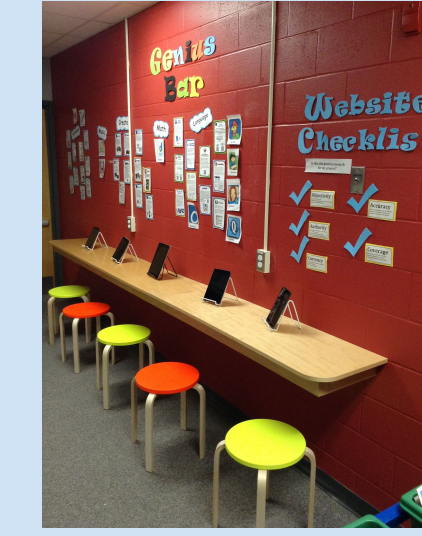


Use Existing Structures



Use walls

- as whiteboards for students to write ideas and solve problems
- Install genius bar for students to work sitting or standing



Use Glass walls or doors

- as Graffiti wall
- Prayer Wall
- Reader's advisory

Transition Space

When designing a learning space, leave room for patrons to transition from one area to another

Too much clutter or too little walking space decreases opportunities for a student to expand on ideas. The space feels closed in and therefore the students also feel closed in or hampered in their ability to expand and explore their work.



Before



After



Accessorizing the Space

Setting the ambience

What is the feeling you wish to set for the room

- Calm (neutral colours with natural materials)
- Invigorating, inspiring (bright, bold colours)
- Welcoming (a touch of both)

Lighting

- Can give a warm glow for a comforting & welcoming feeling (small lamps)

Carpet

- Can give that homey, living room feeling



Evaluating the Space

Transforming a space is ongoing project. Needs change and so should the space

Never assume that a space has been completed but always look for new ways to engage students with a new layout and purpose



Reading Area



Reconciliation Space

You can do it!

Patricia Baker

Ottawa Catholic School Board