

Strategies

for reshaping space

1 Develop the Foundation

1) Think experience, not things

- Focus on student learning and the experience, not bean bags, tables and chairs. Move beyond the "stuff" and focus first on what students DO. Start with what they do, then shift to the stuff that will help them achieve that.

2) Understand the vocabulary

- Flexible: space can be reshaped
- Interconnected: physical and digital spaces for learning are connected
- Technological: space supports a variety of technology
- Adaptive: space adapts to changes in expectations of student learning
- Agile: space can be reshaped quickly
- Intentional: space is designed to support student learning experience

3) Talk to kids about where they like to learn and why

4) Do a space inventory

- What spaces can be redesigned to support the student learning experience?

5) Use design to identify the desired student learning experience

- Start with a true declaration of what students will do and how they will learn - this experience has definite spacial implications.

2 Change the Classroom

6) Declutter

- Reclaim your walls as learning surfaces. Scientists find physical clutter to have negative affects on the ability to focus and process.

7) Let go of the teacher desk

- Recapture valuable space and use if for something student-centered.

8) Find some color

- **Color changes things.** Reject institutional cinder block beige!

9) Design microspaces within learning spaces

- Use spaces for soft seating that promote interaction (student to student and teacher to student); use the spaces for conferencing, etc.

10) Encourage movement

- Kids need to move. And really so do we. Arrange a space that promotes movement; it will be good for everyone!

11) Encourage student ownership of the spaces they learn in

- Letting students into the design process to reshape space empowers them and leads to deeper engagement.

12) Add digital spaces