

Classrooms as a catalyst for 21st century learning

In the "olden days"

- Students seated by rows facing forward
- Fact memorization was the priority
- Teachers delivered knowledge, students passive
- Textbooks drove learning

Throughout the district, teachers are creating learning environments that foster the skills students will need to "thrive in a changing and increasingly global society." Our facilities can play a role in supporting this type of learning. For that reason, District 41 is transforming its classrooms into 21st century classrooms

Today

- Students work in fluid groups
- D41 Learner Characteristics a priority
- Teachers facilitate; students active, "own" their learning
- Innovation, creativity, collaboration drive learning

to support our focus on the D41 Learner Characteristics and lively, interactive learning. We started small with six "model classrooms," and are adding more each summer as we transform all of them to 21st century classrooms. These costs are part of our normal classroom and technology replacement cycles.



A variety of learning areas, such as this cozy corner for two, suit quiet, active, group and individual learning.



Ergonomic stools allow students to perch and rock a bit in comfort.



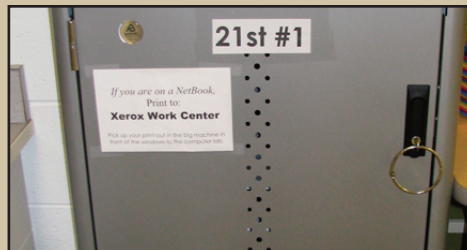
Desks are easily grouped and regrouped for collaborative work.



Lightweight chairs lift easily onto the desk-top at the end of the day in preparation for the custodian.



More seating styles: soft, super-lightweight bean bags accommodate all sizes and are easily moved around the room.



Individual portable devices such as netbooks and iPads are safely stored in a locked recharging cart when not in use.



Desktop computers augment the portable devices. Students access Web-based tools for learning from desktop or portable devices.



Sleek ceiling-mounted projector connects to the SMART Board; students enjoy leading lessons using the interactive touch-screen.