

# Grandview Heights Secondary School



Presented by:

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Learning spaces say more about your culture than any words you speak

- Transform learning for students
- Develop the vision that embodies the community
- Connect the dots between teaching, learning and the learning environment

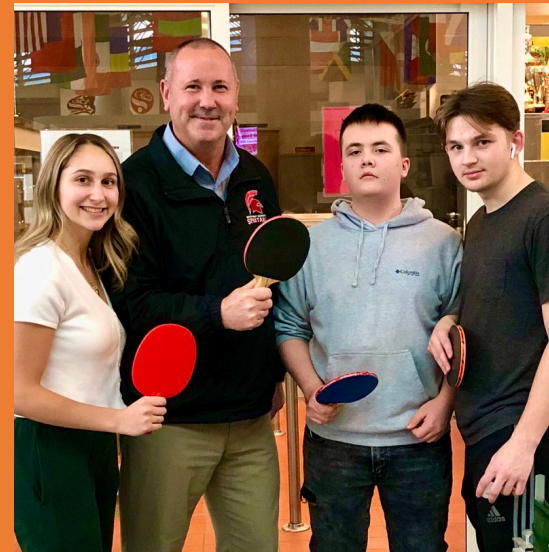
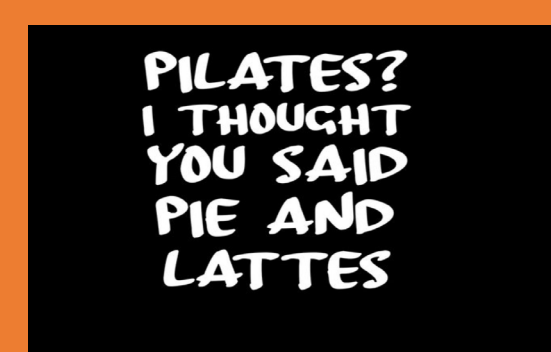


A photograph of a modern school hallway. On the left, there is a long wooden counter with a curved end, behind which are rows of blue lockers. In the foreground, a white oval table is surrounded by blue chairs on metal frames. The ceiling has a grid of recessed lights, and large windows are on the right side, letting in natural light.

# Learning objectives

1. Learn how the *design and furnishings* of a learning environment can transform teaching and learning
2. Learn how *post-occupancy professional learning* for teachers can maximize the learning experience for students
3. Explore current research and best practices in teaching and how modern learning environments support it
4. Explain the need for *developing teacher buy-in and training to use new learning spaces*





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# Grandview Heights Secondary School

- Architect: **Station One Architects**
- General contractor: **Yellowridge Construction, Ltd.**
- Mechanical consultant: **Rocky Point Engineering**
- Structural consultant: **Bush Bohlman & Partners**
- Civil consultant: **Coastland Engineering**
- Electrical consultant: **Jarvis Engineering**
- Capacity: **1,500 students, 65+ staff**
- Size: **13,700 m<sup>2</sup>, 60 classrooms**
- Total product cost: **\$82 million CD**
- Opened **September 7, 2021**



# Welcome to Grandview Heights





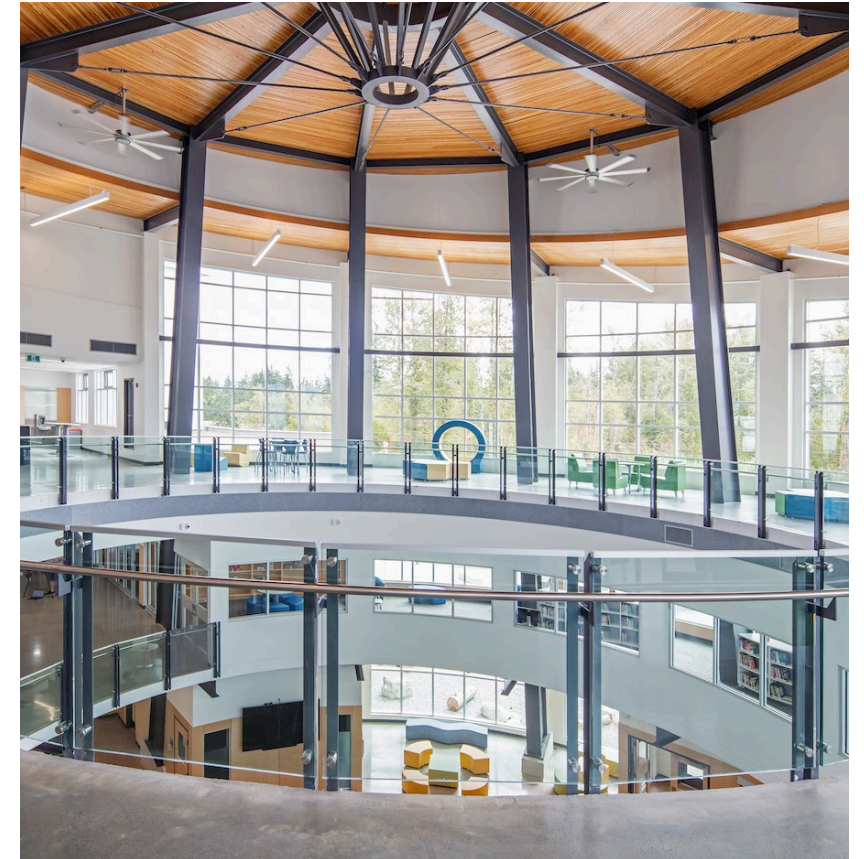


# The Book Room

# SCHOOL VISION FOR LEARNING AND SPACE UTILIZATION

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- Student centered
- Equitable of all learning needs
- Flexible in use for both teachers and students– sitting, lounging, standing
- Moveable for individual and group work
- Include surfaces and designs for students to explore and record their learning on surfaces
- Allow for ease of collaboration and inquiry
- Inclusive of student physical and emotional needs
- Combination of soft and hard seating options
- Neutral colors that fit in with school tones and natural environment
- Easy to fold or store away if needed





# Bridging the GAP

innovative school design and furniture + pedagogy = new student learning outcomes



- Engaged remotely (due to covid) with our new students (4 different high schools and five elementary schools) to work on a school vision and mascot
- Hired 55 teachers from 15 different schools all who have not worked in a modern, flexible, and innovative school design and furniture
- Furniture, fixtures and equipment – where to begin- what to buy









Connecting the dots  
between physical space  
and the vision of student  
success

What do you think is the  
most important thing in  
the planning phase to  
connect the dots?



# Define your “Why?”

At the end of the day, the furniture matters because it helps us make learning and collaboration easier. Furniture in the space shouldn't be an impediment to student learning. It should aid in student learning, and that comes after lots of practice and experience and discussion....

... noticing the cycle that if you change the furniture, you change maybe the way you teach, and therefore you change how people learn.



... identifying a paradox between these incredible new learning spaces and the challenges sometimes educators have bringing their experience... into a new space and trying to adapt to the new space and finding that difficult. It's sort of the difference between the agency of the educators and their ability to take advantage of the potential of these incredible new spaces, but sometimes we're hindered by our experience and habits that we bring from traditionally built schools.



The image shows a large, modern school atrium. It features a curved balcony on the second floor with a glass railing. The balcony is furnished with colorful armchairs and a circular table. Large windows line the balcony, providing a view of the outdoors. The ground floor is also furnished with colorful armchairs and tables. The ceiling is made of wood and has several large, circular light fixtures. The overall design is open and bright, with a focus on natural light and a warm, inviting atmosphere.

# Connecting the spaces to the vision of the school

- The atrium is focused on welcoming families and students.
- The second tier is the Learning commons library. Designed as a space where students can collaborate, learn together, and feel included. An environment that will support multiple learning activities, styles and media formats.
- The third tier Grizzley Lounge - a space that is specifically designed for students where they can gather socially. To interact, engage and support their developmental, social and emotional needs.

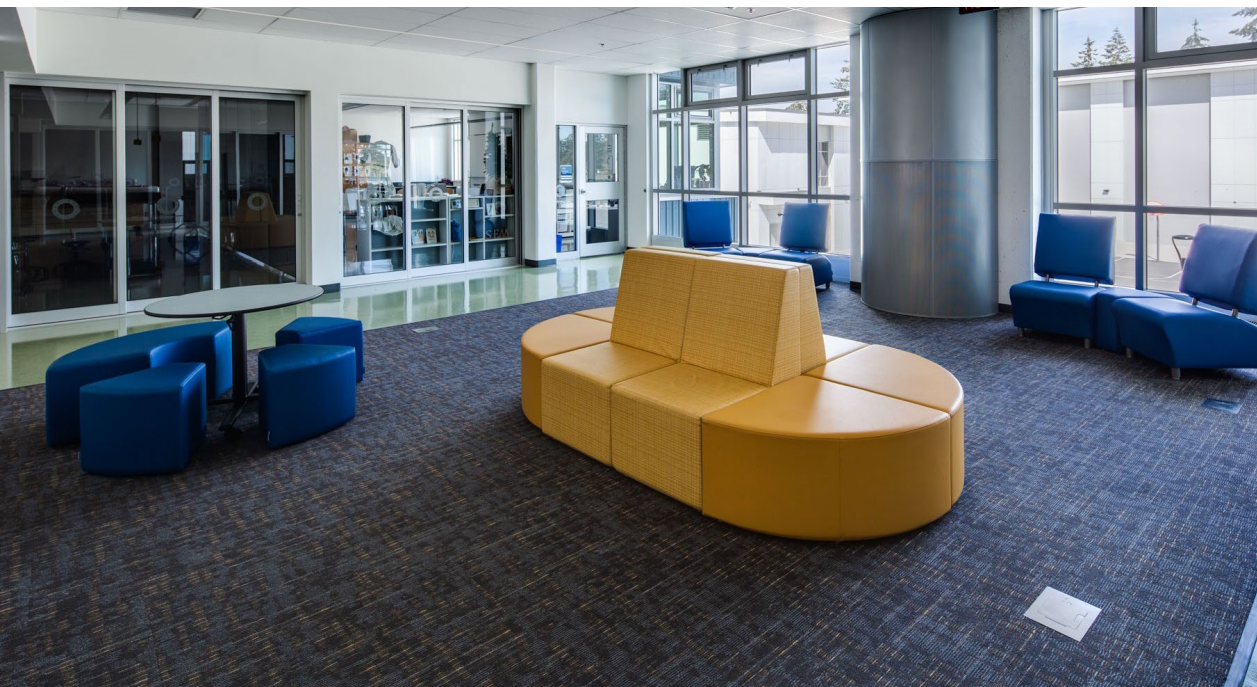
In furnishing these spaces, careful consideration had to be taken to accommodate the diverse and dynamic student population. The furniture had to be comfortable, varying heights, mobile and configurable.







# Collaboration Spaces







Now What?





Transform the  
learning  
environment,  
transform  
learning

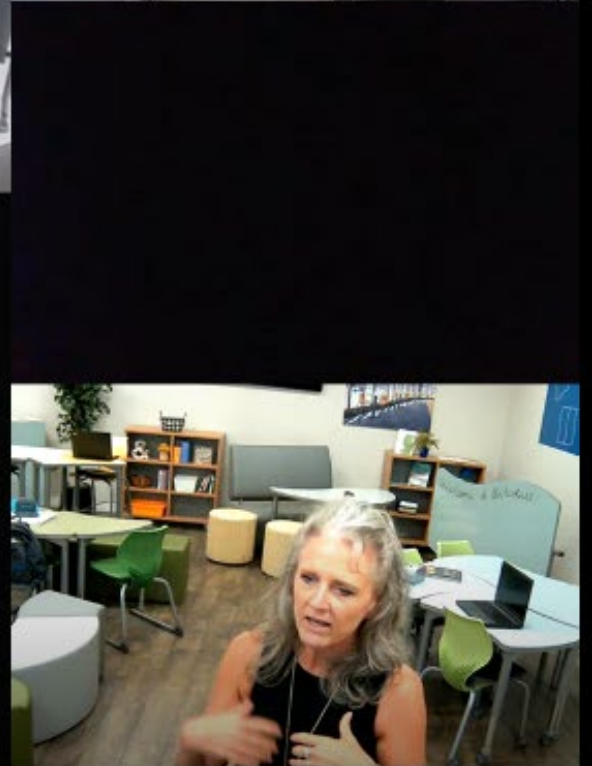




Teachers  
inhabiting  
the space



# New Beginnings New Learning



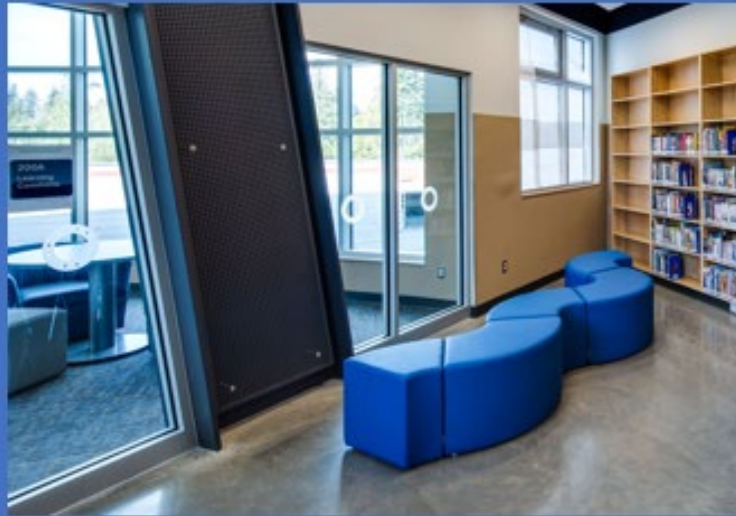


# Results of professional learning-

**We're hoping to try and use the room in different ways, so not just keep it the way we set it up initially, and really look at how we can use the furniture collaboratively. So for example, taking the fish desks and having groups use them to report out to the class and really work together. And then we were thinking in terms of brainstorming with the whiteboard tables and the kids being able to gallery walk around and look at each other's learning and add to each other's learning....**



# Students sum it up





# Bridging The Gap- Lessons Learned

- Building relationships between designers & educators
- Innovative environments do not equal innovative learning
- Clear school vision
- Targeted teacher pro d and ongoing support
- Importance of leadership and mentorship at the school level
- It's okay to get messy and try new ways of teaching and learning- that's what our new space is for
- Future growth: Mentorship program started at the school
- A4LE members at the school now and working with district staff





A photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a prominent circular glass facade. The building features white and blue exterior panels and yellow horizontal accents. In front of the building is a large, circular, dry grassy area surrounded by a concrete walkway. Several young trees are planted in the courtyard, some with green protective bags. In the foreground, there are concrete planters filled with yellow flowers. The sky is clear and blue.

Thank you