

Schoollook

GLENVIEW DISTRICT 34

MAY 2018



District 34 has partnered with The Glenview Education Foundation to redesign learning spaces throughout the district beginning next school year. Six pilot classrooms as well as the Lyon Elementary School Library will be completely transformed. This works follows a complete redesign of the Springman Middle School Library, which was unveiled to students and staff last school year.



GLENVIEW 34
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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for Learning Spaces



DISTRICT 34 LEARNING SPACES

Reimagining & Redesigning Classroom Environments & Experiences For Students and Teachers

For many of us reading this issue, no matter our age group, education level, or demographic, we all share the same vision of what our classroom experience looked like. And that is because, for decades, it hasn't changed.

Historically, schools have been built for permanence, structure, and stability. Classrooms were constructed to be identical, with the desks all in a perfect row and the teacher at the front. The educational experience was dictated and decided by the teacher, consumed by the students, and all done so within a routine and rather rigid schedule.

What is important to understand is that this once was a successful model because it mirrored the experience students would soon have in the workforce. Bell schedules, robotic tasks and assembly lines of work were considered the norm, and school was helping prepare children for that reality. Unfortunately, as the workforce began to change—and now drastically so—school facilities have not.

Recognizing this, a natural question to ask ourselves is, how as educators can we confidently say we are preparing our students for the 21st Century if their school experience lacks common connection to today's world?

In Glenview District 34, we certainly laid the groundwork over the past few years to begin this fundamental shift in the form of charitable donations from our various dedicated parent organizations to purchase furniture or other items for classrooms and our libraries. However, in order to truly reimagine our classroom spaces, we needed to look at this from a much broader lens that took into account not just the furniture in the room but the overall experience. Colors, lighting, air quality, the layout of a room, natural light, sound and other factors need to be reconsidered and reconstructed. Then, in tandem with all of this, we need to also look inward at ourselves as educational leaders and begin to rethink our instructional approach. No longer is the teacher the one with all the knowledge and the students are simply the consumers. Our spaces must support and encourage student-led learning.

Thanks to an incredible partnership with our Glenview Education Foundation, we have now begun reshaping, redesigning and re-imagining the classroom experience for your children, our students, and the community's future residents.

Regards



Dane A. Delli, Ph.D.
Superintendent

District, Foundation Partnership Bring Classrooms of the Future to Glenview

Thanks to a generous donation of \$150,000 and continued partnership with the Glenview Education Foundation (GEF), Glenview District 34 will bring to life its new vision of learning in the form of six pilot classrooms that will be unveiled in the fall.

Focused on cultivating creativity, flexibility, collaboration, and problem solving, the pilot classrooms will be spread through all six of the primary and intermediate buildings in the district.

Construction will begin over the summer and include a complete transformation of the space that is entirely funded through the \$150,000 donation by the GEF.

“As a district, we are energized by the opportunity to physically adjust our learning spaces. More importantly, we are inspired to engage in a transformational shift in our instructional

practices for all students,” said Superintendent Dr. Dane A. Delli. “We are grateful to have our foundation not just involved in the funding of this pilot, but also be true advocates for re-imagining our classrooms and approach to teaching and learning.”

The grant follows several years worth of work throughout the district as well important guidance by a team of individuals who researched different features of learning space environments, determined measurements to gauge the impact on learning and developed a comprehensive vision for D34 classrooms. The committee, which met throughout the 2017–18 school year, was chaired

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From GEF Outgoing Chair, Greg Hughes:

The learning space grant represents an amazing collaboration between District 34 and GEF. With the support of our parent community, we continue to push and test new approaches to learning in the district. With this project, we are thrilled to help incubate Dr. Delli's and the district's vision for the next generation of classrooms for our children.

”

by Executive Director of Educational Technology Brian Engle with support from Dr. Delli.

Through this partnership, the district will be able to test pilot different aspects of learning space design in order to better understand the needs of teachers and students in real time. More specifically, different types of furniture models, paint colors, furniture configurations and materials will be experimented with and evaluated to determine what has the greatest impact on learning. By doing so, critical adjustments can be made before potentially bringing this idea to scale across the district.

“The opportunities we can provide for D34 students, through this collaboration, truly reflect the strategic direction we are taking as a district to help ensure all learners and learning styles are afforded an opportunity to maximize their learning,” Dr. Delli said.

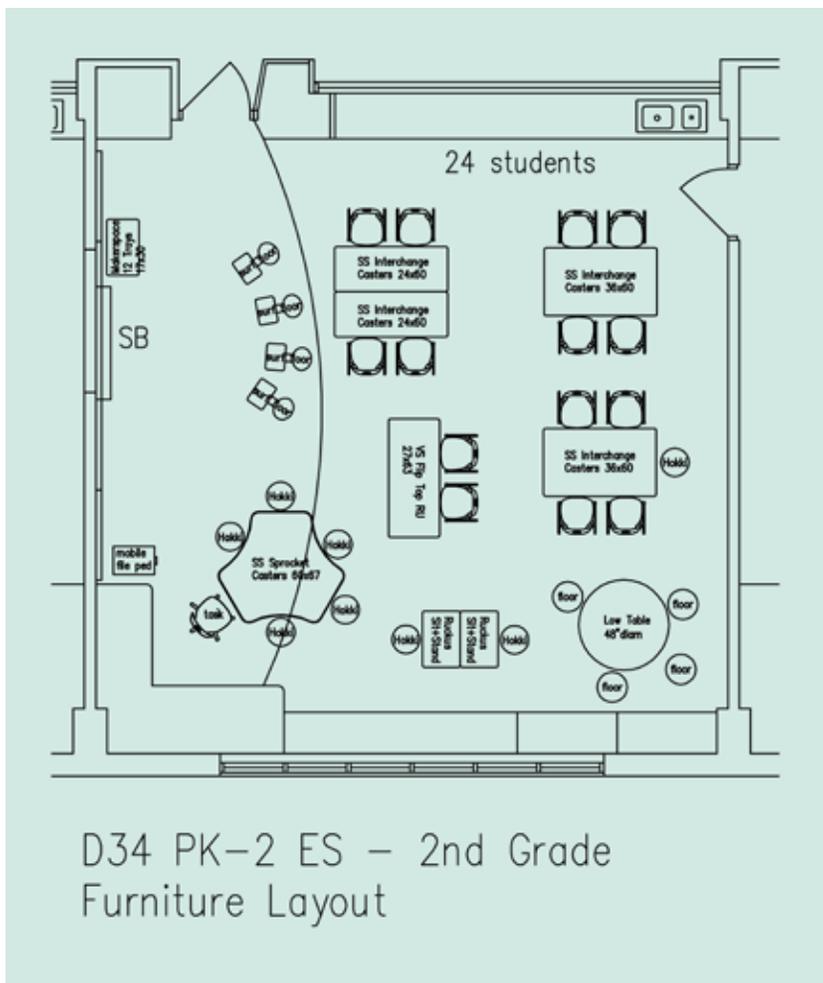
The pilot classrooms were selected following an extensive application process that was open to all teachers in grades K–5. (The middle schools were not included in the initial pilot due several variables that differed from the primary and intermediate grades that would make the testing difficult to authentically measure.) A selection committee that consisted of Engle,



Glenview Education Association President Nan Ross-Meridith, and Executive Director of Human Resources Dr. Heather Hopkins blindly reviewed the applications to ensure the selection was determined based solely on the individual's interest and clear dedication to the experiment.

The teachers were notified in April and work almost immediately began to bring the group together to be a cohort of sorts to study what, from an instructional standpoint, must change to embrace this type of learning experience.

A Look Inside: *What Are the Core Components of Design?*



An architectural rendering of a classroom layout at Westbrook School. The goal is to offer multiple seating options for students to utilize.

The overall goal of the D34 Learning Space Pilot is that classrooms will evolve to be adaptable and functional, inviting and comfortable, learner and learning centered. When deciding the specifics, though, the Learning Space Design Committee vetted all decisions against the following design drivers:

Adaptable and Functional

- multi-use
- multidimensional
- a variety of spaces
- dynamic
- flexible and supports seamless transitions
- enduring

Inviting and comfortable

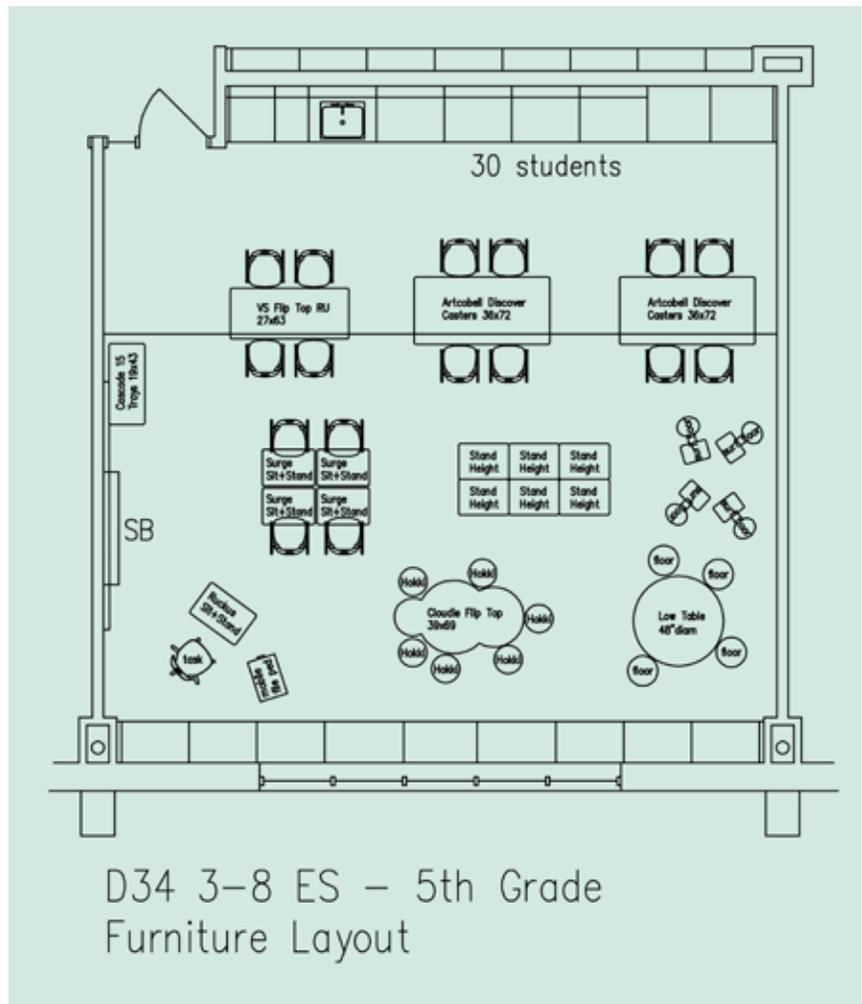
- maximize natural light
- human needs are met through temperature and light control, and acoustics
- curves and straight edges
- open
- thoughtful use of color
- some softness
- considers ergonomics
- natural elements, brings the outside in

Learner-centered

- displays artifacts of learning
- inspiring
- appropriate size/scale for learners
- honors the learner
- inclusive, universally designed
- offers choice

Learning Centered

- reflects an innovative vision for learning in order to support curiosity, connection, collaboration, creation and the exchange of ideas
- designed based on the teaching and learning that will take place



An architectural rendering of a classroom at Glen Grove. The district will experiment with different seating arrangements and types of furniture.

“We know that redesigning a classroom or learning space extends beyond the purchase of new chairs, tables, flooring, lighting, technology, etc., and must include an instructional shift,” said Executive Director of Educational Technology Brian Engle. “When we say ‘learning spaces,’ we are referring to the combination of the physical environment and the social components of teaching and learning. We are talking about instructional shifts that capitalize on the flexibility and functionality of a new environment.”

The Future is Now: Construction Begins on Pilot Learning Spaces



Beginning as early as June, the district will begin construction on the six pilot classroom spaces with substantial completion expected by the first week in August. During this time of construction, the teachers involved in the pilot will be spending their summer months preparing for the critical instructional shifts that must occur in order to make this an impactful experience for students.

Everything from the overall movement and flexibility of the space to the lighting, furniture and sensory features of the space such as colors and comforts will be completely re-imagined during the construction process.

“When imagining the future, we see learning environments that inspire the best in teaching and learning, meet the needs of all, and afford each learner an equitable opportunity to grow,” said Superintendent Dr. Dane A. Delli.

Please stay tuned in the fall for the unveiling of the pilot classrooms and for more information about this exciting transformation taking place in Glenview District 34.

An example of the type of seating the district will experiment with.

But....I Want to Be Involved!

More About The Glenview Education Foundation

The Glenview Education Foundation, more commonly known as the GEF, is a non-profit, volunteer-driven fundraising organization of District 34 parents who believe incremental private funding is critical for supporting a high performing public school district. Since being established in 2001, the GEF has invested more than \$2,000,000 to fund innovative and high impact pilot programs across District 34.

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From GEF Incoming Chair, Cynthia Garcia:

The GEF board is thrilled to fund a pilot with the potential to improve the learning experience for all our district's students and teachers. We are eager to see how the program shapes the future of classrooms in each of our district's eight schools, and we are grateful to the District 34 community for their continued donations and involvement which make these opportunities possible for our district's students.

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From GEF Grants Chair, Diane Bilcer:

The space in which students learn is a vital part of the learning process. D34 teachers work hard creating a learning experience that will encourage flexible thinkers prepared for an ever-changing world. We are excited to give our amazing teachers another tool that will further support the work they do with our children.

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Serving as a volunteer on the Board or generously donating to the foundation will allow you a chance to be part of future initiatives in Glenview District 34. Please visit www.gef34.org for more information on how to volunteer or donate today.

Want to learn more about past grants the GEF has provided to enhance the educational experience for our teachers and students? Visit www.gef34.org/grants to read more about the incredible opportunities that have been created thanks to efforts of this all volunteer organization and the generous donations of our community.



Glenview Education
Foundation

Lyon, Springman Libraries Part of Future Vision for Learning Spaces



While this will be the first time the district will be completely reconstructing some of its classrooms, the creation of the six pilot learning spaces follows several years of work and research within the district that has already led to some visible changes.

More specifically, Springman Middle School is home to a newly redesigned Learning Resource and Technology Center. Also known as the LRC, the space was unveiled to students and staff last school year. Executive Director of Educational Technology Brian Engle noted that what occurred at Springman really helped move the conversation forward in the district in terms of its approach to learning spaces.



In fact, the district is now moving forward with substantial changes to the LRC at Lyon Elementary School. It is expected to open to students in the fall. An architectural rendering of what this space will look like can be seen below. Both Lyon and Springman received grant funding from The Glenview Education Foundation to support the execution of these projects.

Like Springman, flexibility is at the heart of the design. Both spaces have movable walls, seating arrangements and different seating types to support student choice and collaboration.

“It is a place where we want students to share ideas, learn from each other and collaborate,” said Engle. “The library is no longer a space for quiet, independent work. The focus now is on teamwork, and our LRCs help prepare our students for life after our district and certainly once they enter the workforce.”

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Our Mission

To empower children to be self-directed learners
and responsible decision makers.

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