

Facilities Facts

To help inform the Elmbrook community on high school facilities topics.

Recommended Facilities Standards for High School Curriculum

“Both Brookfield Central and Brookfield East are outdated in terms of basic infrastructure and space for modern educational standards. This is particularly true in the science and applied technology areas where, as a society within a world economy, we need promising students to pursue and excel.”

*–Tom Juran
Applied Technology and
Engineering Teacher
Brookfield Central H.S.*

Adequately Sized Classrooms – As a result of *No Child Left Behind* all schools must be standards based, which has changed curriculum yet classrooms haven’t changed. For example, our 750 square foot classrooms with 30 student desks in rows and a teacher desk in front encourages teachers to lecture and students to take notes, yet doesn’t result in all students meeting standards. In contrast, an 825 square foot classroom with access to break out areas and technology would enable a variety of learning activities to engage all students in active learning, understanding, application, and meeting the standards.

Spaces for Interventions – In addition to regular classrooms, intervention spaces are needed for students who struggle to make adequate yearly progress on the standards. These spaces would house specialized reading, math, and writing services that are currently housed in converted meeting rooms, planning areas, and storage areas because the schools weren’t built with spaces for interventions. While these conversions provide spaces for interventions, they have squeezed spaces for meeting, planning, and storage.

Space for Technology in Classrooms – Integration of technology into curriculum has changed the complexion of the learning environment. For example, it is no longer appropriate to occasionally go to a computer lab to meet technology skill requirements. Rather, the district must verify that all students have met the Information Technology and Literacy Standards that are learned through ongoing integration and application of technology throughout the curriculum, which requires technology space in classrooms.

Unique Needs of Science and Math Areas – Science and math instruction have changed to emphasize hands on experiences, which requires more spaces for both learning and storage. Science areas also need to be redesigned to meet a 1991 standard for safe facilities, practices, and handling of materials. For example, our science labs do not have storage and ventilation to support chemical usage. This either limits the lab work done by students or results in increased chemical exposure risks for both staff and students.

Spaces for Physical Education and Applied and Fine Arts – Physical education standards have changed the target from games and sports to programs that focus on fitness and lifelong physical habits, which means a variety of physical education spaces are needed. Applied technology and engineering, family consumer science, drama, art and music have also changed to focus on integration of core standards of reading, writing and mathematics within these applied and fine arts, which means that flexible spaces are needed for these programs.

This is Fact Sheet #2 in a series published by the Community Relations Office of the Elmbrook School District. Your involvement in this process is encouraged. Call 262.781.3030 ext. 1176 or Email: feedback@elmbrookschoos.org