

Facilities Facts

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

Broad Curriculum Changes in Education

“A small classroom of about 750 square feet (approx. 22’ x 34’) set up to accommodate the 30 student desks in rows with a teacher desk in front no longer meets the needs of today’s instruction. Research tells us that a teacher lecturing to rows of students sitting in their desks does not result in high student achievement or improved performance.”

*~Melanie Stewart, Ph.D.
Director of Secondary
Student Learning*

The Elmbrook School District strives to meet:

- Standards of the state of Wisconsin
- Federal standards represented by No Child Left Behind
- Expectations of parents for a high quality education for their children
- Desires of the community for low tax rates and schools with excellent reputations

How can classroom needs be addressed?

- Create sufficient and flexible spaces to accommodate a variety of instructional practices
- Enhance technology for increased efficiency of instruction

What are the specific curricular needs?

Technology

- Access to computers by students and staff is one of the primary needs at both high schools.
- Electrical capacity needs and space for computers in classrooms were not envisioned or anticipated when the high schools were built in the late 1950s and early 1960s.
- Lack of adequate electrical capacity and small classrooms prohibit appropriate computer workstations from being added to the high schools. These limitations also make large group instruction difficult.
- Technology is now integrated into curriculum, which changes the fundamental needs of the learning environment.

Science

- Science areas need to be designed to meet the “Laboratory Standard” of 1991, which sets guidelines for safe facilities, safe practices, and safe handling of materials. Due to the physical design of chemical storage space when the high schools were built, the district does not meet the single, centralized storage requirements.
- District science labs do not have storage and ventilation adequate for all chemical use, which either limits the lab work students can do or increases chemical exposure risks for staff and students.

Physical Education

- Physical Education standards have changed from games and sports to fitness and lifelong physical habits. This demands a variety of teaching stations for physical activity.

Specialty Areas

- Core standards of reading, writing and mathematics are now integral components of applied technology & engineering (shop), family and consumer sciences (home economics), drama, art, and music.
- Since 20-25% of district graduates attend technical colleges within two years of graduation, these unique spaces must be maintained and adaptable to changing needs such as health care, culinary, and hospitality.

This is Fact Sheet #15 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@elmbrookschoools.org