

SCHOOL

Planning & Management

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EDUCATION INTERIORS

Multiple Sensory Elements / Next-Gen Learning

HIGH-QUALITY, COMFORTABLE
Learning Environments

TRANSPORTATION'S KEY WORDS:
Safety, Efficiency and Service

SCHOOLED IN SAFETY
Keeping Students, Facilities Safe From Fire



New Center Serves Community, District



» The new \$22-million Bonita Center for the Arts, in San Dimas, Calif., was designed as a community landmark that educates as well as ties the local school district with the community. Designed by Rachlin Partners, the architecturally significant structure provides the K-12 students, as well as the cities of San Dimas and La Verne, with a high-quality, publicly funded, environmentally sustainable performing arts center. The building is currently pending Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) verification, California’s highest standard of green education facilities. The building is not only safe and ecologically sound for students, but it also provides an educational experience by displaying placards that explain its state-of-the-art sustainable features to all who visit. In addition to Rachlin Partners, the design team behind the Bonita Center for the Arts consisted of general contractor Tilden-Coil Constructors, landscape architect L.A. Design Associates, theater and audio-visual consultant Auerbach Pollock Friedlander and LEED consultant Verde Concepts. The center officially opened on Oct. 15, 2014.

Voters approve Bond Issue for Improvement Program

A majority of local voters approved the Port Washington Union Free School (PWUFSD) District’s \$69,877,198 construction bond issue for infrastructure improvements and renovations. The construction program will encompass seven schools, an administration building, and athletic facilities owned by the district, and will begin in the summer of 2015. The district serves grades K-12 with a current enrollment of 4,994

students. BBS Architects, Landscape Architects and Engineers serves as the architect; interior designer; mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) engineer; civil engineer; and site and athletic field designer for the entire construction program financed by the bond. According to PWUFSD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kathleen Mooney, “Renovations, repairs and new construction at all seven schools and the administration building,

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Ask the Expert

This Month
Collaborative Learning Environment

HOW DO YOU CREATE A BETTER LEARNING ENVIRONMENT?

I USED TO JOKE THAT IN THE BEGINNING, computer labs were designed by electricians — not educators. Workstations lining the walls of a room for easy access to an electrical outlet doesn’t exactly foster a collaborative learning environment. In fact, new data shows that when a classroom’s physical space is well designed, there’s a significant positive impact on student engagement, which improves student outcomes.

Today’s technology, including mobile devices and ubiquitous networks, has fundamentally changed the way we can design learning spaces. So with the days of teacher-centered classrooms and neat rows of desks becoming a thing of the past, how do we ensure that we are creating student-centered spaces? It starts with collaboration.

When we think about collaboration, we often focus on collaboration between IT and curriculum to maximize “return on education,” but there are many other important relationships that will affect student outcomes, including facilities. Collaboration is critical in all aspects of the school business, and here’s how to make it happen.

- **Start early:** It’s never too early to bring IT and curriculum into the picture.
- **Work backwards:** Start with the vision of what the learning space should look like.
- **Pay constant attention:** Never minimize a step in the design or implementation process.
- **Share the risk:** Be bold knowing that a laser focus on learning space is new and takes a calculated risk.

At CDW-G, we see the power of collaboration for student success every day. When we focus on students and their needs, we can break down the traditional silos that still exist in our schools and improve the student learning experience. ■

» Dr. Chad Stevens, is the K-12 Strategist with CDW-G.