

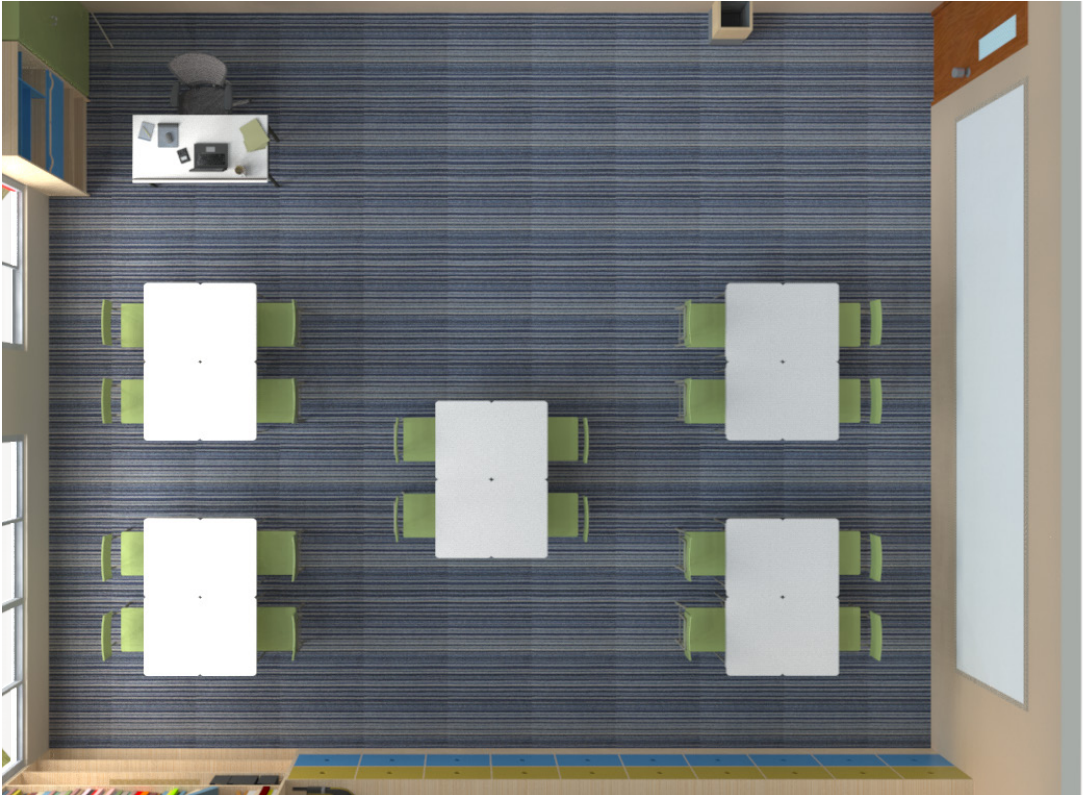


**HAPPY
CLASSROOMS**

A happy and comfortable environment is essential for a positive learning experience. A learning space needs to be inviting, such that kids enjoy spending time in it. Classroom environment affects morale, motivation and student engagement. This booklet takes you through the key points of creating a delightful learning experience for your students - *a guide to a happy classroom for a happy learner.*

Seating Arrangement

The physical setup of desks, chairs and display in a classroom can significantly influence learning. Seating arrangement can determine how the instructor interacts with the students and how they interact with one another, thereby impacting motivation, engagement, communication and focus.



Different types of instruction require different types of seating arrangements.

The Cluster arrangement works best for learner-centered classes as it encourages interaction and creates a more personal and safe environment for sharing ideas - promoting teamwork and collaboration.

The U-Shape arrangement facilitates both teacher-to-student and student-to-student interaction. Class discussions happen in a large, open format but at the same time, the teacher gets ample opportunities to work with students one-on-one.

The Runway arrangement places emphasis on the teacher and works best for lecture centered classes with a small number of students.

Lighting and Ventilation

Much like any other space, ample lighting and ventilation are crucial in making a space vibrate with positive energy. A well-lit and ventilated classroom is a cheerful and welcoming space and greatly influences the engagement and mood of students. engagement, communication and focus.



Your classroom needs plenty of natural light and ventilation. Classrooms with minimal windows and light increase student depression. If you don't have windows, making sure the room is well lit can enhance student learning.

At the same time, too much light can affect visual media presentations. Provide room darkeners on the windows to control the light entering the classroom.

Display Space

Creating a space that makes students feel at home can greatly improve learning. Having a display area for student work in the classroom improves student morale and creates a sense of belonging and responsibility towards the classroom. It helps students connect with the classroom and be a part in creating their learning space.



Allot a space for displaying student work in the classroom, making sure the space is visible to all the students.

The space can be used to put up classroom projects, learning and visual aids for on-going courses and even self-projects done the students.

Storage

A storage space is a necessity in all classrooms. It acts as the hideaway for all class supplies and materials, keeping your classroom neat and clutter-free. Individual storage units are a boon to the students, providing them a secure space to keep their personal belongings and old classroom projects.



Individual storage units for both students and the teacher are ideal for each classroom. These can be installed/placed in a designated storage space in the classroom. You can install open shelves to display student models. An open shelf system can also be effectively used as a classroom library.

Furniture

Classroom furniture needs to be light and comfortable. A comfortable student spends less time fretting over discomfort and is generally a more engaged learner. Easy-to-move furniture which encourages rearrangement and collaboration is essential in all classrooms.



Furniture needs to empower students to be in control of their learning. To facilitate quick reconfiguration of the classroom in accordance with the working style and task at hand, classroom furniture needs to be light and easy-to-move. At the same time, it should also be sturdy enough to endure heavy use by students.

Color & Ambience

Colors are a crucial factor in setting the ambience and mood of a space. A well-balanced, carefully picked color scheme in a classroom can stimulate learning and prevent anxiety. It can help students feel more comfortable with the space.



Choose a color scheme that is positive and serene. Too many bright colors can be distracting for the students while too many dark colors create a gloomy vibe. Pick a color scheme which is calm and appropriate for the age of students. Your classroom furniture color must also be in accordance with the overall color scheme.

Visual aids are a great way to boost learning and help students retain information.

Avoid clutter in your classroom as it acts as a distraction. Restrict displays to the display area and keep the rest of the walls clean.

Reduce over-decoration in the classroom. Avoid displaying student scores and grades in front of the whole class as it can be detrimental to the morale of struggling students.

Create a positive relationship with your students, allowing them the freedom to express themselves in class. Make them feel that they have a say in things.

Try to connect the students with the curriculum by using real life examples wherever possible. Students learn better when they can relate.

Have a weekly talk session with your class and discuss topics outside of school that may interest them. Fun talk sessions can help create a friendly and approachable relation with your students.

