

# THE SCIENCE OF CLASSROOM DESIGN

On average, **U.S. STUDENTS SPEND A WHOPPING 11,700 HOURS OF THEIR LIVES INSIDE SCHOOL BUILDINGS.** Simple changes like a new coat of paint, more natural lighting and less clutter in the classroom can improve academic performance, reduce disruptive behavior and keep students on task. Here are 5 surprising ways classroom design can help set students up for success.

## LAYOUT

Improvements to classroom layout, like creating space for independent work or making a clear pathway to access school supplies, result in a **45% INCREASE IN ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT.**



### OPTIMIZE CLASSROOM SPACE

KEY: ■ STUDENT'S DESK ■ TEACHER'S DESK ■ COMPUTER ● GROUP TABLE ● TRASH

IDEAL FOR:  
Independent work  
Tests  
Start of the school year



IDEAL FOR:  
Group work  
Learning stations



IDEAL FOR:  
Demonstrations  
Group discussions



### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

Define learning zones (e.g., reading corner, computer corner, reading or study area).

Create a space where small groups can work independently and still be connected to the rest of the class.

Try to keep focal points away from the entrance/exit to minimize distractions caused by incoming or hallway traffic.

## COLOR

Purposeful use of color in classrooms and schools can **DECREASE EYE FATIGUE AND INCREASE STUDENTS' PRODUCTIVITY.**



### USE COLOR STRATEGICALLY



RED

POSITIVE:  
Active, strong, passionate, grabs and focuses attention

NEGATIVE:  
Aggressive, intense



YELLOW

POSITIVE:  
Cheerful, highly visible due to the amount of light reflected

NEGATIVE:  
May lead to eye fatigue



GREEN

POSITIVE:  
Relaxing, natural, quiet, grabs attention, increases creativity

NEGATIVE:  
Boredom, blandness



BLUE

POSITIVE:  
Comfort, security, grabs attention, increases creativity

NEGATIVE:  
Coldness, aloofness

### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

Schools may not allot budget dollars for you to paint or redesign your classroom, so turn the tasks into a volunteer opportunity for community activists, students and parents.

## WALLS

Removing clutter on the walls and personalizing student spaces are easy ways to **IMPROVE STUDENT FOCUS, ENGAGEMENT AND MEMORIZATION.**



### MAKE WELCOMING WALLS



KEEP 20-50% OF WALL SPACE CLEAR to optimize student learning.



NEUTRAL BACKGROUND COLORS such as beige or white help students focus on the lesson, not the walls.



Factors such as VISUAL CLUTTER AND CROWDING can distract students.

## LIGHT

Students who are exposed to more daylight in the classroom score **26% HIGHER ON MATH AND READING TESTS** than those with less exposure to light.



### KEEP CLASSROOMS BRIGHT



KEEP WINDOWS CLEAR of displays or furniture.



KEEP BLINDS OPEN unless needed to reduce glare.



USE ELECTRIC LIGHT to supplement natural light.



Use lamps to CREATE A WARM ATMOSPHERE in smaller areas like reading nooks.

## DIGITAL SPACES

Learning spaces go beyond the classroom walls. **DISPLAY SCREENS AND AUDIO SYSTEMS ARE INTEGRAL** to successful digital learning experiences.



### CURATE DIGITAL EXPERIENCES



ELIMINATE EXTRA WORDS, PICTURES AND MEDIA from the screen.



ADD VISUAL CUES like highlighted or bolded text to call out important information.



Create USER-PACED AND STUDENT-CENTERED LESSONS that meet different learning styles.



Use a CONVERSATIONAL AND FRIENDLY TONE.

### RESOURCES

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