

## harder working spaces



The refreshed media center offers a whole new way of working for students. Mobile soft seating encourages students to huddle, while stool height tables with power access support technology use.



Students can change their posture while brainstorming ideas on the whiteboard.



Mobile furniture promotes engagement and social interaction among the students.

### project specs

Education  
Beverly Hills, MI  
5,000 sq/ft  
2 floors

### solutions provided

Space planning  
Furniture

### strategic partners

Steelcase

### featured products

Move Stools by Steelcase  
Cobi Stools by Steelcase  
Node Seating by Steelcase  
Verb Tables by Steelcase  
Verb Whiteboards by Steelcase  
Custom Table by Primeway  
Swift Lounge Seating by National  
Alight Ottoman by Turnstone

## Detroit Country Day School

### Designed for Learning

Can classroom design improve results in primary and secondary education? The newest “active learning” models have us re-examining the impact of physical space on student performance. It’s also inspired some amazing classroom transformations.

Traditional teaching models impose a passive order in the classroom. Rows of stationary desks face a blackboard on beige walls. Not anymore. An active learning environment promotes engagement and participation along with the idea that learning can be fun. The classroom itself plays a problem-solving role. The renovations at Detroit Country Day Schools demonstrate this clearly. Students can better see and interact with teachers, with subject content, and with each other — often on the fly as assignments can change quickly. Mobile desks and chairs readily support different learning methods and preferences. Desk-side personal whiteboards can help ideas take hold, aid in presentations, and create a screen between students when privacy is required.

The upgraded library supports a bolder vision for how this kind of space can function. Besides serving as an archive for reading material, the room includes zones for teaching, group study and socializing. Lounge seating is popular with small groups. A standing height table enables collaborative work.

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A variety of furniture settings support different modes of student work including, group work, reading, individual study or working with mobile technology. Students also have the choice to stand, perch or lounge based on the work at hand. The fun bright colors bring life to the space.

Some are also wired for technology. According to Timothy Bearden the school's Chief Academic Officer, "We have worked with NBS over the past several years to transform the teaching and learning spaces at Detroit Country Day School. Using movable, durable, and adaptable Steelcase products, we have turned classrooms and learning spaces into collaborative, engaging spaces congruent with our 21st century experiential, participatory and collaborative pedagogical goals. From design to delivery to service, we have been pleased with the results."

Can space design improve education? At Detroit Country Day we applied new thinking about how a classroom should function in order to promote deeper engagement through active, hands-on learning. It's one thought-provoking example of how design can teach a thing or two.

To learn more about this distinguished educational institution visit [dcds.edu](http://dcds.edu)



Mobile seating and tables encourage students to move around depending on the activity and lesson plan.



Personal whiteboards hang from each desk for quick access to use as a privacy shield for test or focus work.