



For more than 100 years, we've created smarter learning spaces that solve customers' educational issues. We bring together the best strategies, products and services that help people learn more effectively, today and tomorrow.



At Princeton Community Middle School, a new building is breathing new life into instruction thanks to a dedicated 6-12 research team. Superintendent Dr. Gary Pack's urging for "classrooms that look and operate differently" resulted in "lots of national research" and a true collaboration with LOTH and Steelcase.

A team member remarked, "We thought we were going to be sold some furniture, instead we were really schooled on the research and design process – the specifics and function and purpose of furniture."

Challenge:

- **culture:** analyze district culture – determine how to reset the culture being created in classroom settings
- **adaptability:** the ability to rearrange furniture in the middle of a lesson without major disruption
- **collaborate:** make the sharing of information easier between instructors and students and students with other students
- **understand and provide:** new ways to engage; student-centered spaces
- **the importance of space:** enable lecture mode, group set-ups, individual work – from one class to the next or even during the same class period

Solution:

- **discovery:** the 6-12 team traveled to Grand Rapids, MI for a site tour at Steelcase where they were given "an experience, not a sales pitch – teaching us how we could create that much more in our new facility..."
- **experience:** more people work in groups than work alone – "Steelcase was a prime example, we saw their teams collaborating and joined in..."
- **try it out!:** provide a pilot classroom using Node tablet chairs

LOTH
creates
innovative,
active-
learning
environments



Result:

- **core academic spaces:** technology in education is changing teaching methods – this requires transforming the spaces where this process is carried out
- **access:** Node chairs provide flexibility and a 360° swivel for open sightlines to instructor, media, or other students in collaboration
- **mobility:** ease of moving tables and/or chairs means freedom for multiple activities and multiple purposes from initial classroom footprint
- **collaborative benefits:** magnetic, double-sided markerboards, part of the Verb classroom tables, work in a collaborative manner, can be passed around the room or used as dividers for individualized testing (a big component of Ohio’s instructional model)
- **candid comments:**
 - “I know it’s just furniture, but it’s not just furniture.”
 - “Kids were excited, energized with the Node chairs. They came to class excited – it just worked.”
 - “I was inspired by the possibilities of the furniture in any classroom.”
 - “It rejuvenated the staff.”
 - “The learning environment can make a difference.”

Princeton is the largest installation of Node chairs in the United States.



“We can pay it back on a bigger scale. A lot of the work we did, a lot of other schools SHOULD be looking at. I was proud to be a part of this.”

Princeton Community Middle School Principal William Sprankles

