

## FACILITIES FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY LEARNING

### Ideas for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Facilities

#### Aesthetics

The indoor and outdoor structures and spaces of the school should be aesthetically pleasing and healthful settings. The facility should be inviting to the students, making them feel that the space is special, and therefore emphasizing that each individual is important. Aesthetics that affirm the value of the individual must be stressed, with spaces for the admiration of the accomplishments of the students and others. The school should be a place for academic success, high self-esteem, social interaction, and physical safety. The facility layout should be especially easy to comprehend and should reflect how classes relate to one another to minimize the feeling of being “lost,” which is common in students. Spaces should be provided for socialization among students and with teachers. Spaces should also be provided to display student work.



▶ Lakeview High School, BETA Design, Battle Creek, MI

#### Planning Principles

Following are planning principles employed by other districts when developing school facilities and sites:

- Building orientation is important. The obvious focal point is the main entrance. The front of the building should be visible to the public.
- Good signage is important including a marquee board with directions on how to find entrance and location within the facility and good directional/informational signage inside and out.
- A welcoming area should be by the front door. The welcome area should be open, using spacious hallways and common areas.
- Create easy access for parents/community.
- Use pleasing, warm, inviting, soothing colors.
- The building should be visually appealing, both internally and externally.
- Provide adequate lighting; natural skylights, glass, windows, and open areas.
- Feature student art work – several showcases around school to promote student achievement.
- Use complimentary carpet and tile mix appropriately used throughout the building.
- Equip student spaces with technologies for student use.
- Maintain landscaping.
- Hide the dumpster from view.
- Separate access drives for deliveries.