



Boys Town Education Center: The Evolution of Learning Environments that Serve All Students

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Who We Are



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Agenda

01 Boys Town:
History and Who
They Serve

02 What We Learned:
Boys Town Study

03 What We Learned:
Research Informed
Design

04 The Boys Town
Education Center

05 Questions

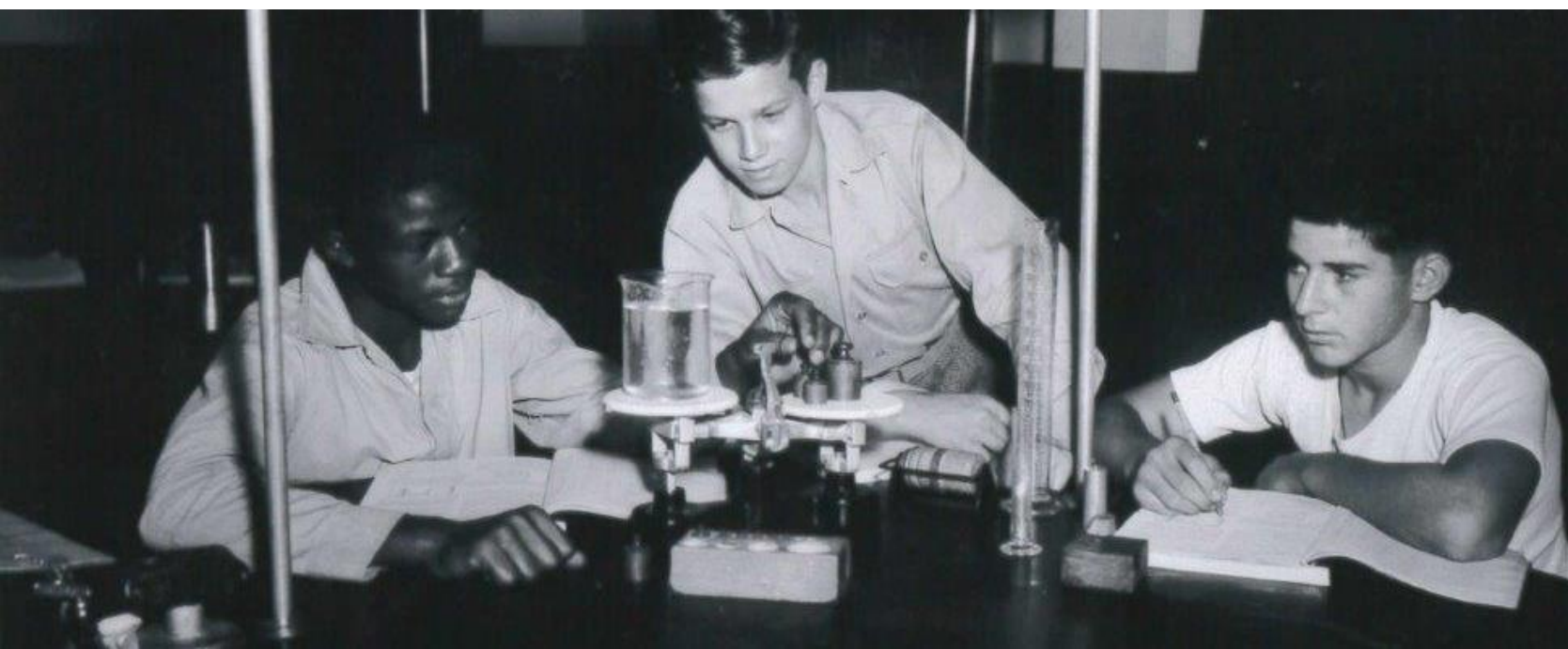
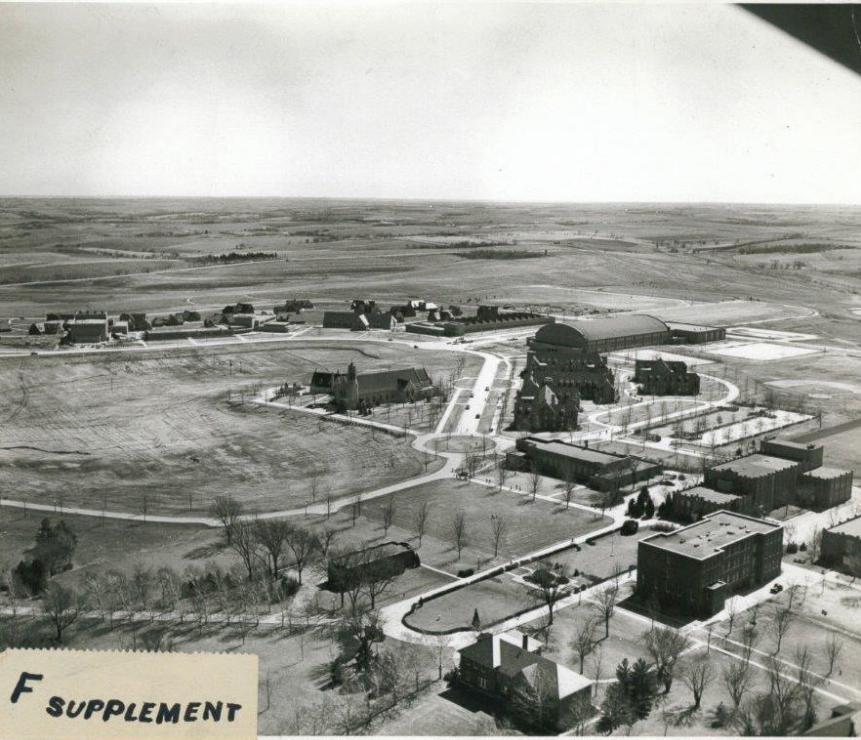
01

Boys Town: History and Who They Serve

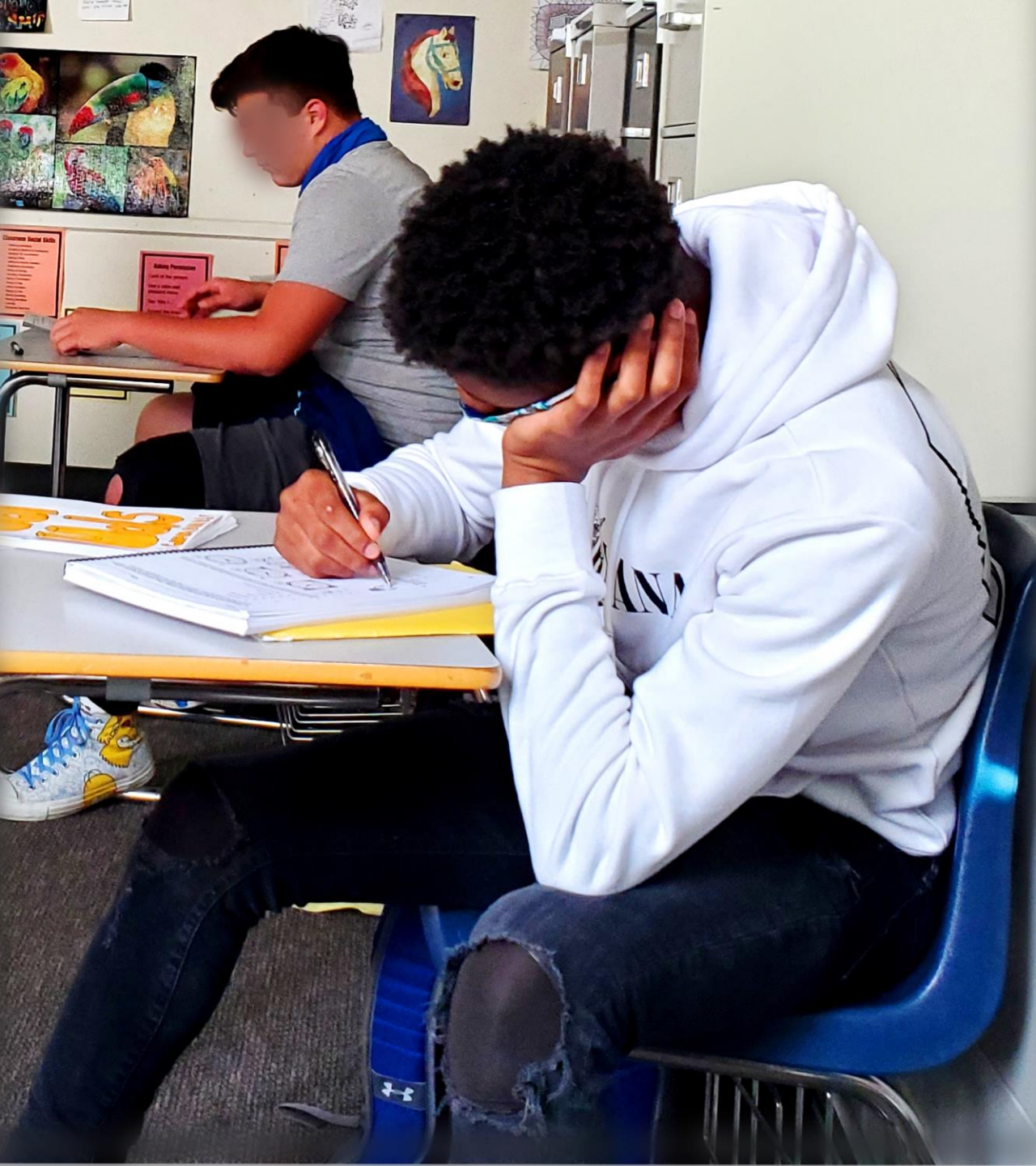


**“There are no bad boys.
There is only bad
environment, bad training,
bad example, bad thinking.”**

-Fr. Flanagan

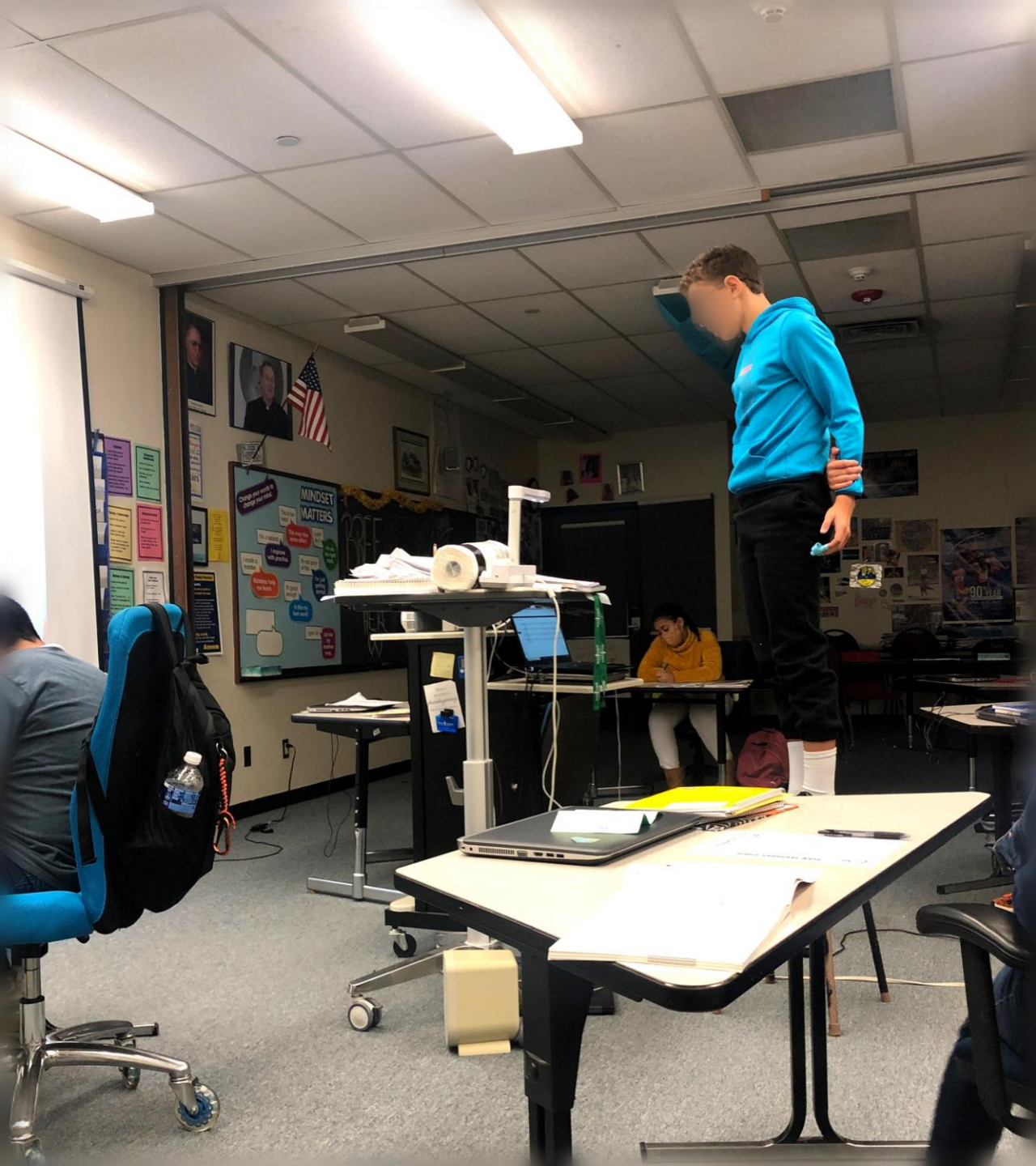






Boys Town Today

- 100% of student population is at risk
- Boys Town is a residential treatment facility serving boys and girls 5 -18 years of age
- More than 80% of students are significant academic deficiencies or behavioral challenges
- 97% graduate high school or continue their education after leaving Boys Town



Boys Town Today

- Approximately 30% are referred by the Juvenile Justice System
- Approximately 30% are referred by the Department of Health and Human Services
- Approximately 30% are based on the student's desire to attend Boys Town
- No one is turned away for lack financial resources



Boys Town New Education Center Program

Elementary and Middle School

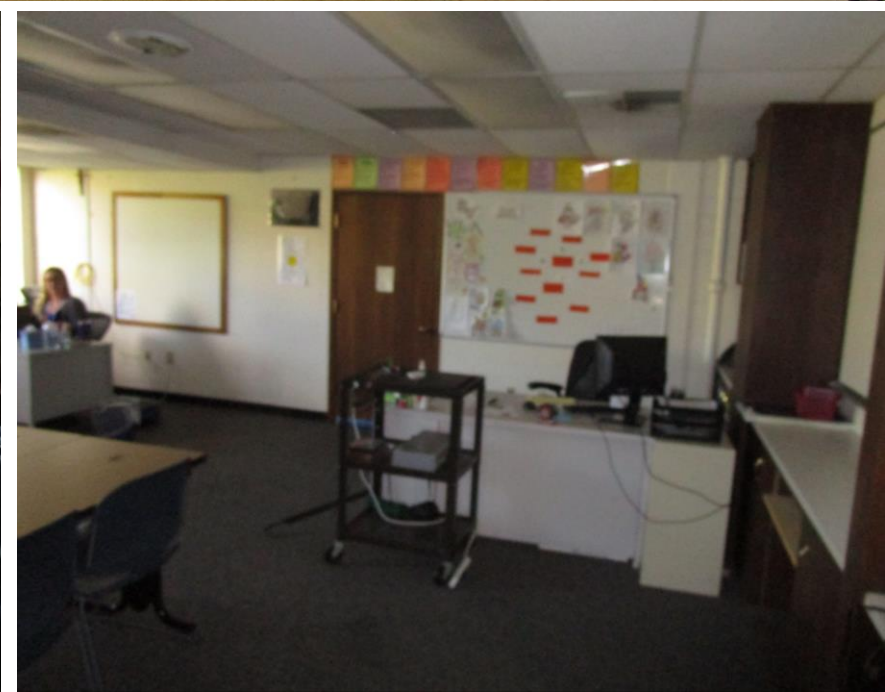
- Design capacity 50 students
- Core and exploratory curriculum
- Commons
- Physical education

High School

- Design capacity 400 students
- Core curriculum







02

What We Learned: Boys Town Study

Boys Town Study



We See

We see a safe, flexible learning environment that encourages positive interactions and behaviors as students achieve their academic dreams and prepare for adulthood with technology at their fingertips.

Guiding Principles

Safe & Innovative

Our school will be a safe place where students and teachers feel comfortable and inspired to grow and learn.

Flexible & Adaptable

Our school will inspire students to reach their full potential through flexible learning environments with spaces for collaboration that provide structure and yet have the ability to adjust to the unique needs of students and teachers.

Honoring the Past & Looking Toward the Future

Our school will honor the diverse legacy of our historic institution and learn from it while looking toward the future with innovative spaces for collaboration, interaction, and creativity.

Creative & Inspiring

Our school will be a family-oriented, innovative, and inviting environment that fosters fun and inspires students to learn to love again.

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Spirit of Place

*"There are no bad boys.
There is only bad environment,
bad training,
bad example,
bad thinking."
-Father Flanagan*

At Boys Town, we believe that every child,
regardless of circumstance,
deserves the opportunity to succeed.

It is our goal to create that place.
A place where we can all grow together.

We are all integral in that process,
coming together to create a greater whole.

Looking beyond the building, to a higher good,
through spirit, culture and a foundation to lift up - into
the light

03

Teacher Interviews

Boys Town Study



**“It’s not just a job, it’s a
passion.”**



What makes Boys Town, Boys Town?

Student-Focused

- 100% of the students are at-risk
- Social and emotional needs take priority over traditional curriculum

Community

- Respect
- Family teachers play a key role in the success of their kids due to their active role
- Positive teacher/student relationships

Passion

- Boys Town is a safe haven for kids
- Rewarding for teachers and staff to see individual journeys

**“We take the kids that
everyone else turns away.”**



Do you feel the school is living up to its mission?

Yes

- Majority of staff feel that they are meeting the mission, but all feel they can improve
- Always striving to improve
- Staff is very proud of the work they do at Boys Town

Teacher / Staff Stress

- Emotional stress among the staff is apparent
- Often overwhelmed and exhausted
- Current block schedule does not allow for a mental break until the end of the day

“For the most part we prepare them, but we could do more.”

Student and Teacher Shadows

Boys Town Study



Boys Town Study

Student Shadow

Hailey and Hazakiah



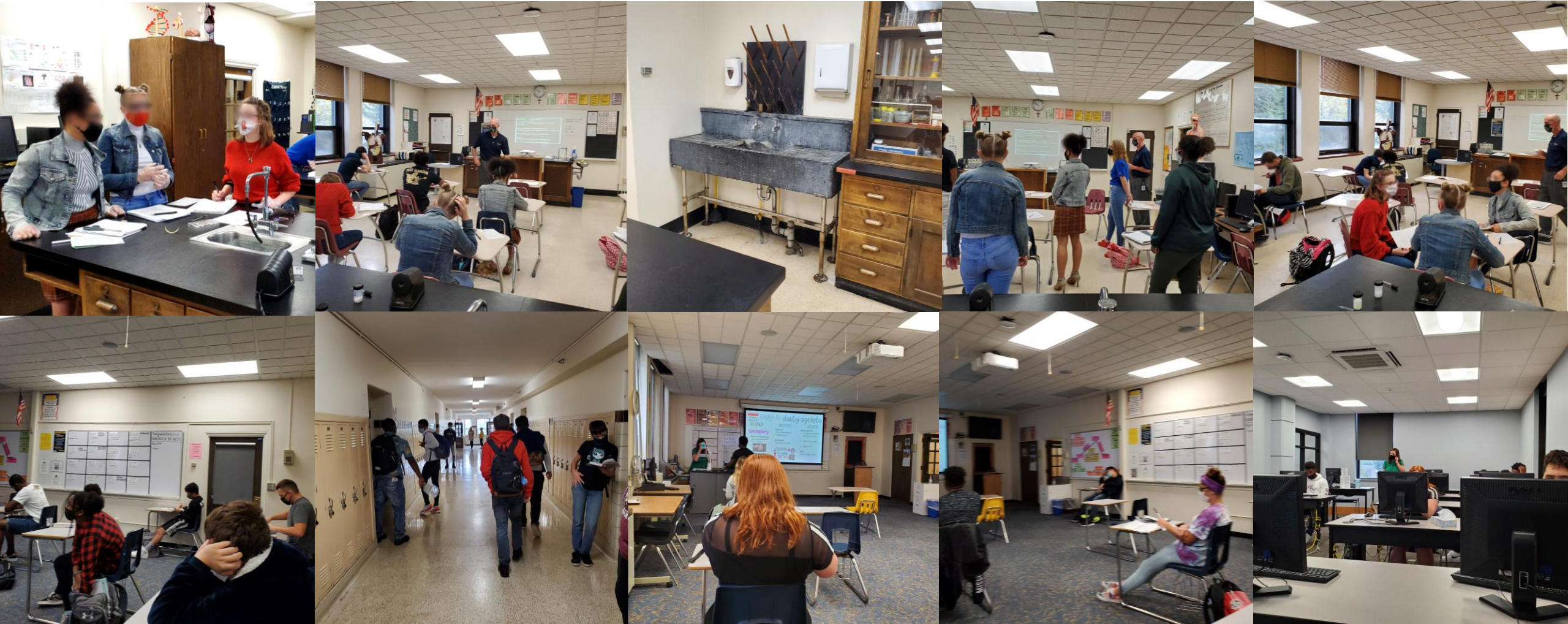


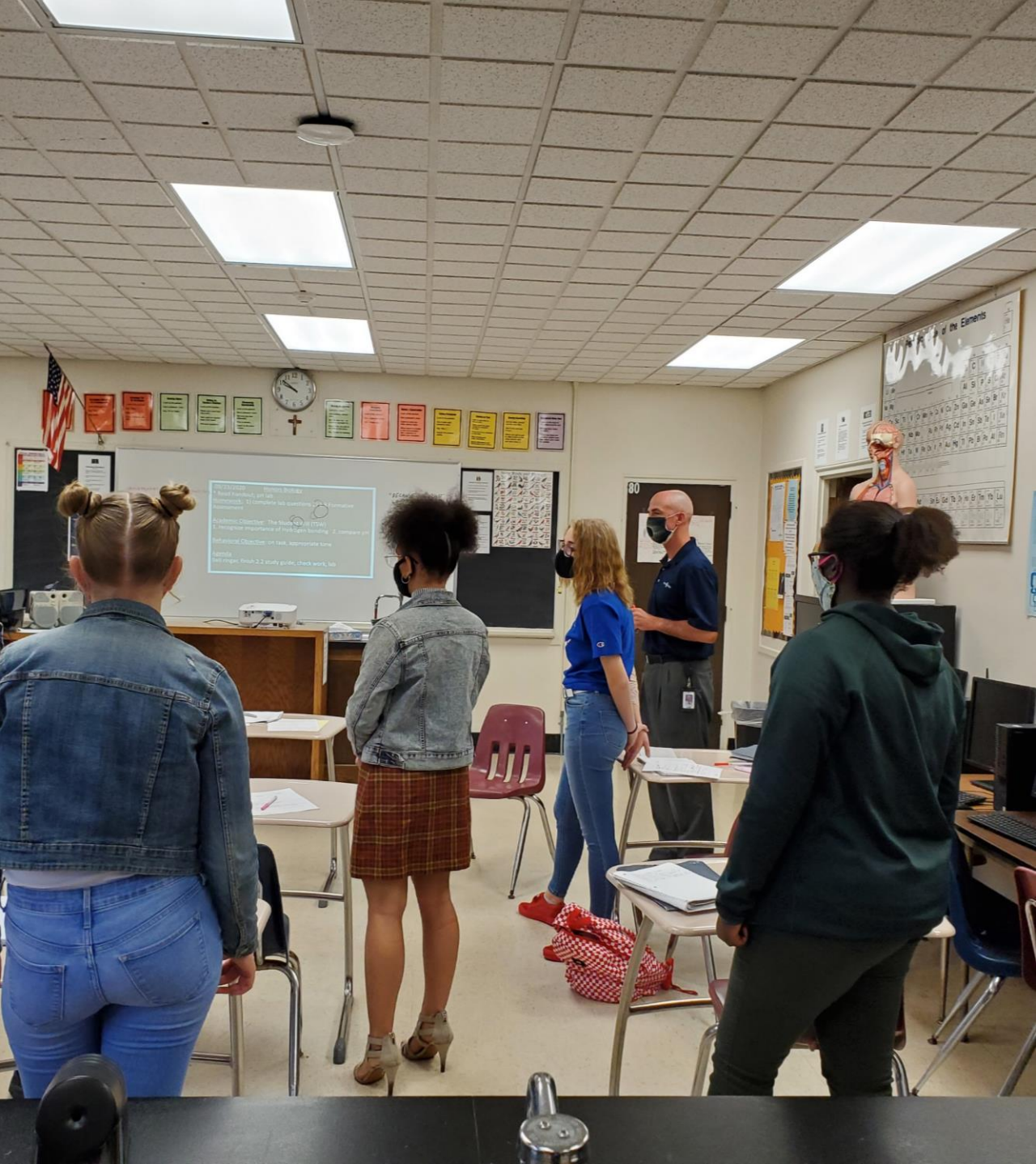
What We Learned

- Respect and manners are far more apparent than the majority of high schools visited in the past
- More engaged due to the lack of cell phones
- Personal connections between students and staff
- Students enjoy their reset time walking between buildings during passing periods

Boys Town Study

Educator Shadow





What We Learned

- Social and emotional education comes before traditional academics
- Family teachers are critical to the success of Boys Town
- Boundaries and space are incredibly important
- Great teachers can teach anywhere

04

What We Learned: Research Informed Design





What impacts student learning progress?

Individual student variability = **50%**

Teacher effectiveness = **30%**

Physical learning environment = **16%**

[1] Hattie, John. "Visible learning: A synthesis of over 800 meta-analyses relating to achievement." (2008)

Nye, Barbara, Spyros Konstantopoulos, and Larry Hedges. "How large Are Teachers effects?" *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis* 26, no. 3 (2004): 237-57

[2] Barrett, Peter, Fay Davies, Yufan Zhang, and Lucinda Barrett. "The impact of classroom design on pupils' learning: Final results of a holistic, multi-level analysis." *Building and Environment* 89 (2015): 118-133.

FINNS

Flexibility: Movement, space for learning activities

Individualization: Personalized activity settings, right-sized furniture

Naturalness and Nature: Connections to nature/natural light, and comfort

Stimulation: Right size, appropriate colors

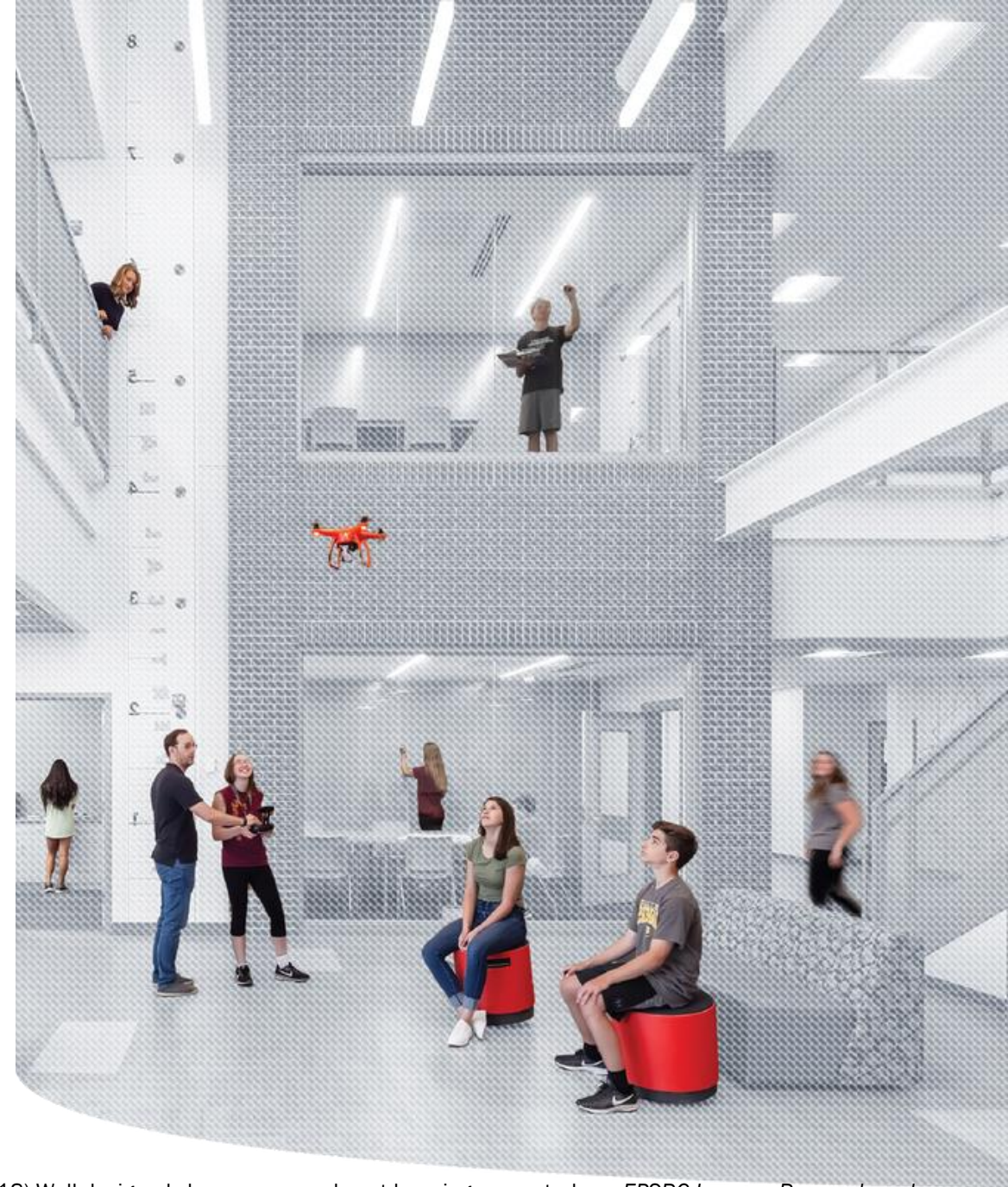
The SEI/TEI™ research



Neuroscience research



Educational psychology research



Flexibility **Movement Matters**

SEI/TEI Research

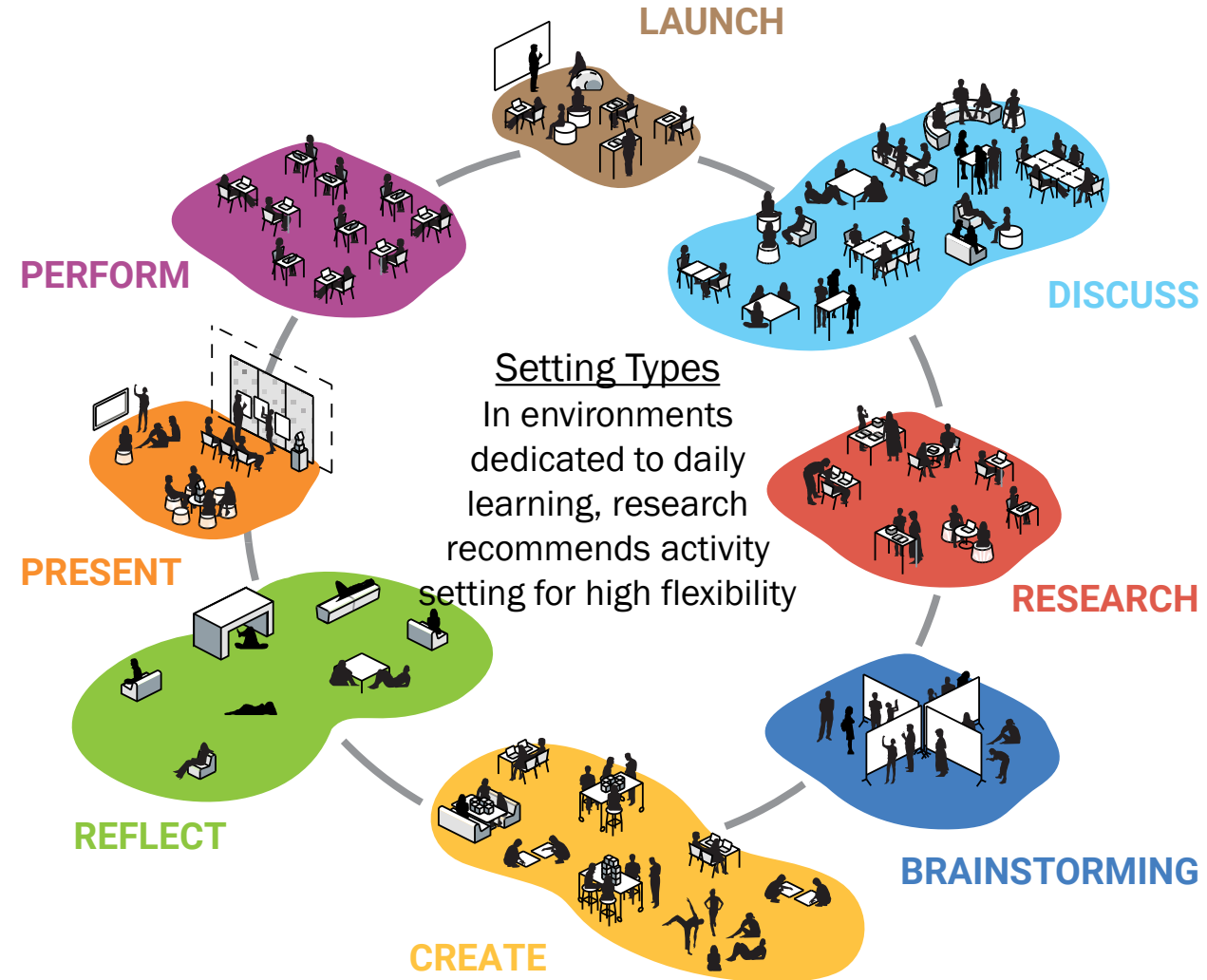
- For operable spaces to impact student outcomes, best practices for sightlines, acoustics, doors and furniture must be followed.

Neuroscience Research

- Movement keeps the student engaged, adds novelty, and feeds oxygen to the brain.

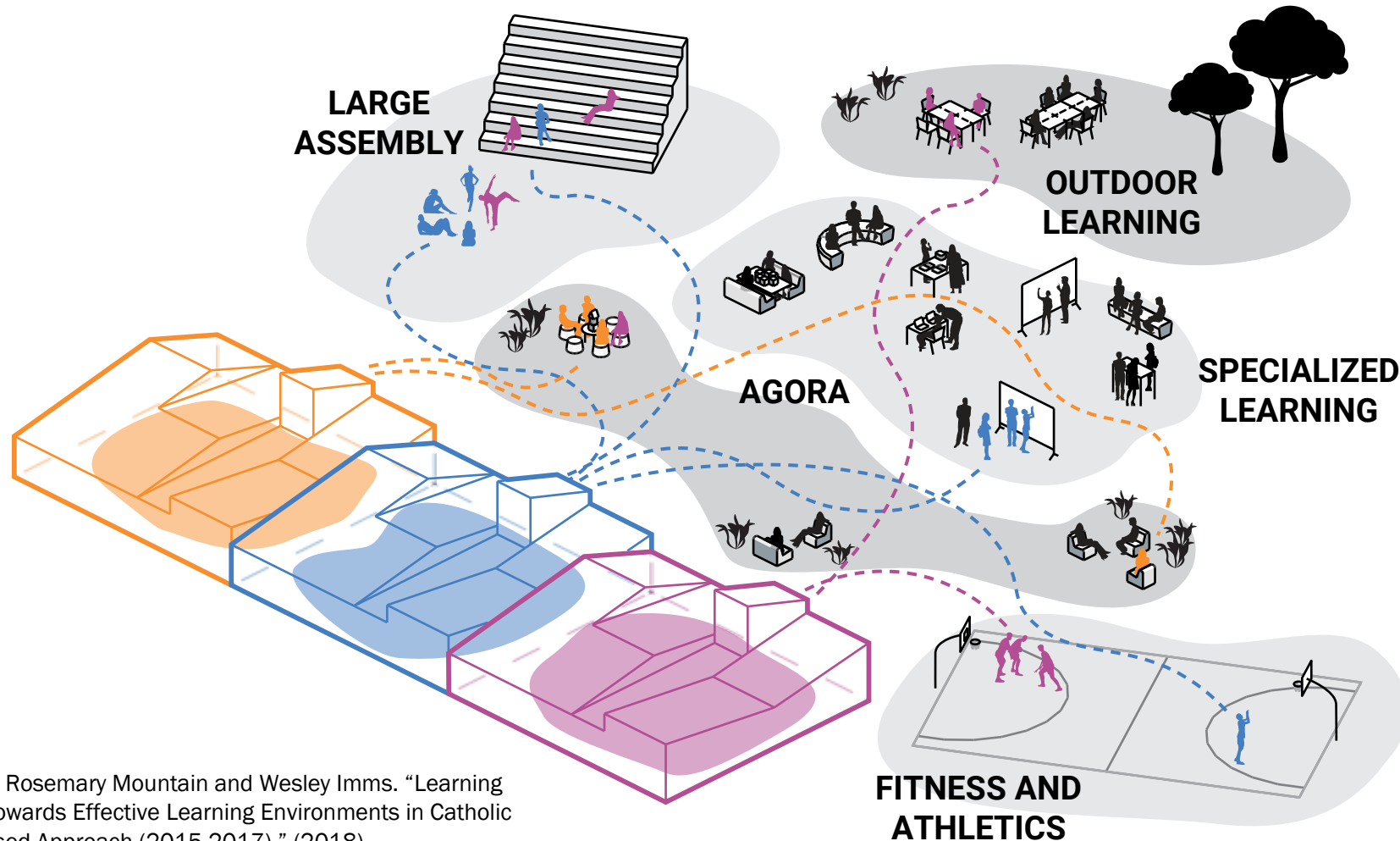
Environmental Psychology Research

- Movement at multiple scales, from small movements such as “squiggling” in a chair to larger movements such as walking or standing is important.



Individualization **Physical Needs are Unique**

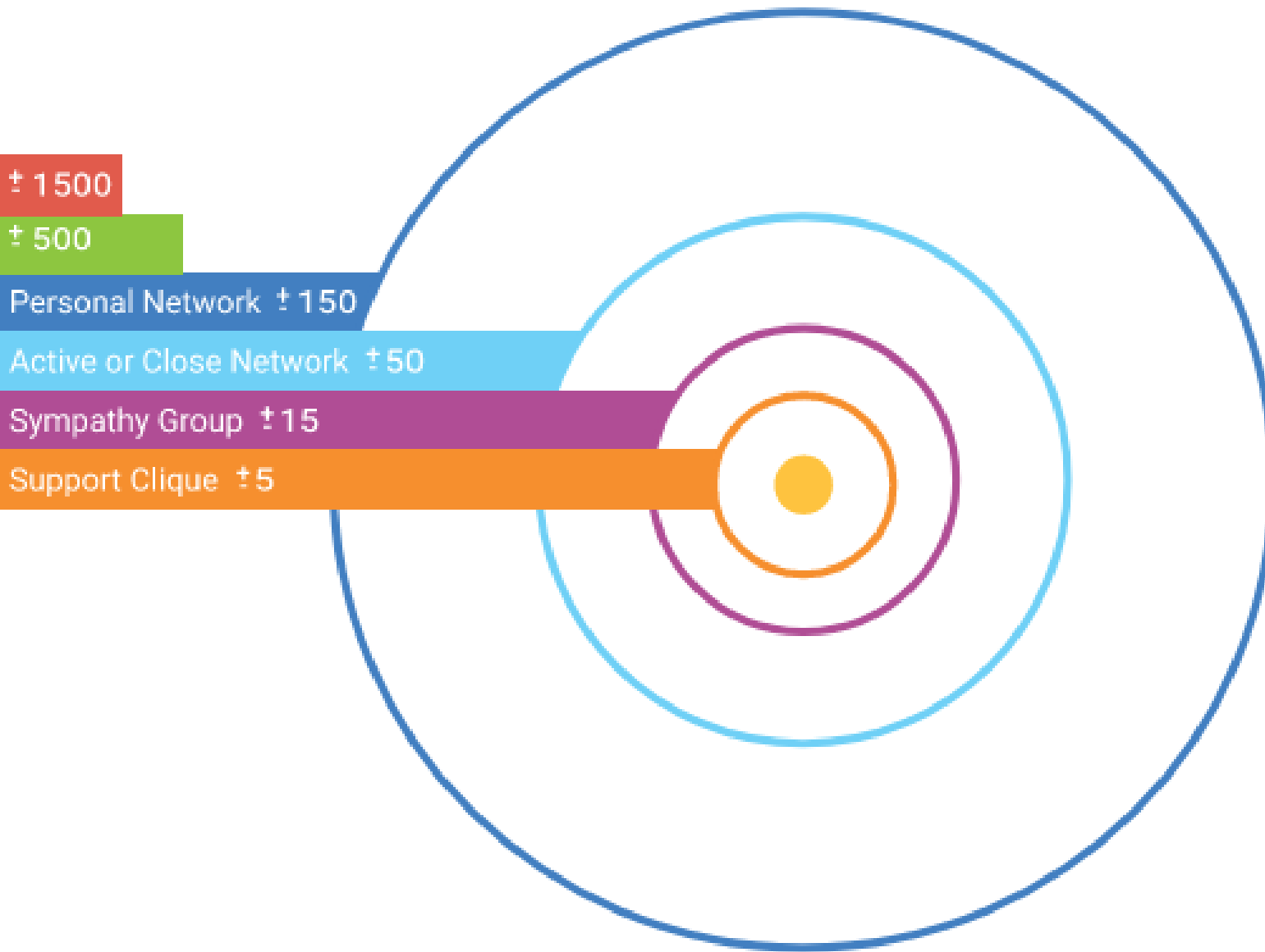
Providing physical comfort requires more than meeting the naturalness factors alone. The learning environment must be personalized for every student and teacher alike. [1]



[1] Cleveland, Brigitte, P Soccio, Rosemary Mountain and Wesley Imms. "Learning Environment Design and Use. Towards Effective Learning Environments in Catholic Schools (TELE): An Evidence-based Approach (2015-2017)." (2018).

Individualization

Primary Relationships



Dunbar Number

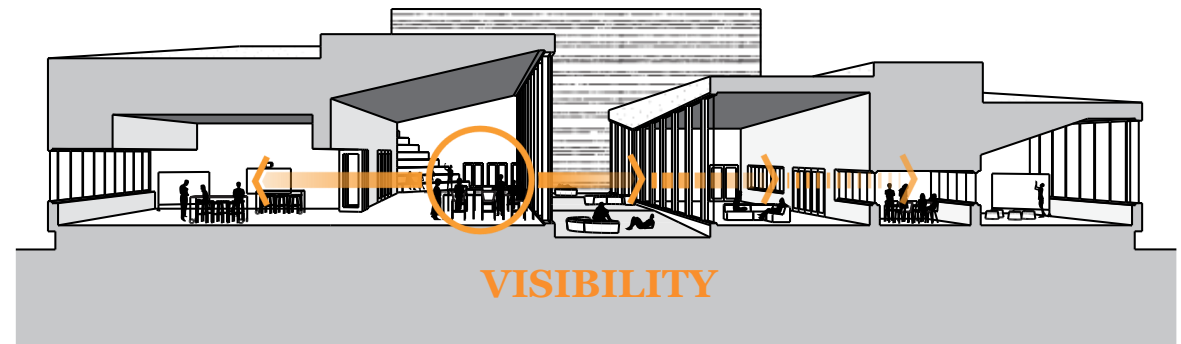
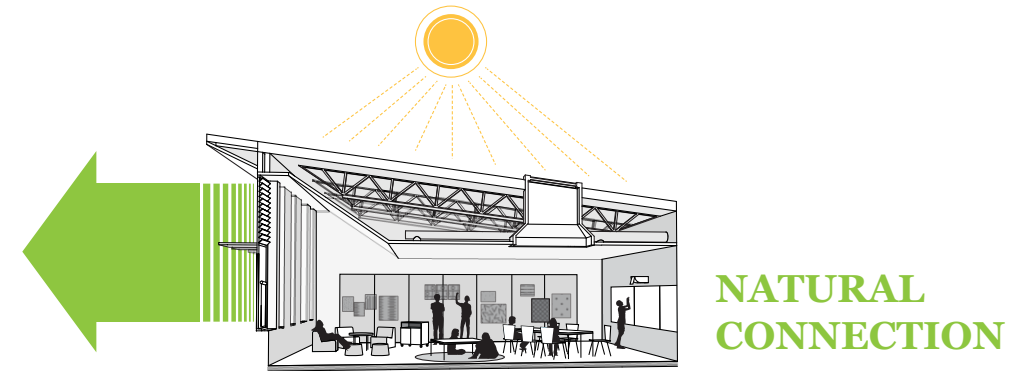
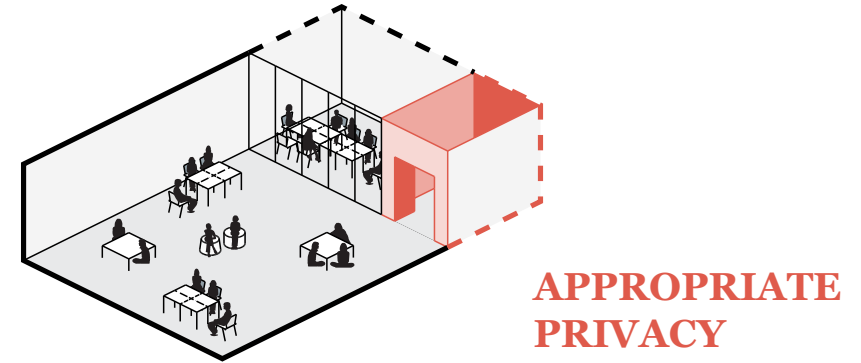
- Groups between 100 and 250 are generally able to maintain healthier relationships and require less restrictive norm enforcing than larger groups because of their group bond
- This number goes down when people experience trauma

Individualization **Trauma**

An estimated 25% of youths have experienced a traumatic event.

Almost 75% of the youths involved in the juvenile justice system have experienced trauma. [1]

Architectural design elements can mitigate stress including exposure to natural light, avoidance of hidden spaces, spaces that provide privacy and open interior environments. [2]



[1] Pickens, Isaiah B PH.D and Tschopp, Nicole LCSW-C. "Trauma Informed Classrooms." School-Justice Partnership (2017).

[2] Jandara, Ken AIA. "Trauma-Informed Courthouse Design."

05

The Boys Town Education Center

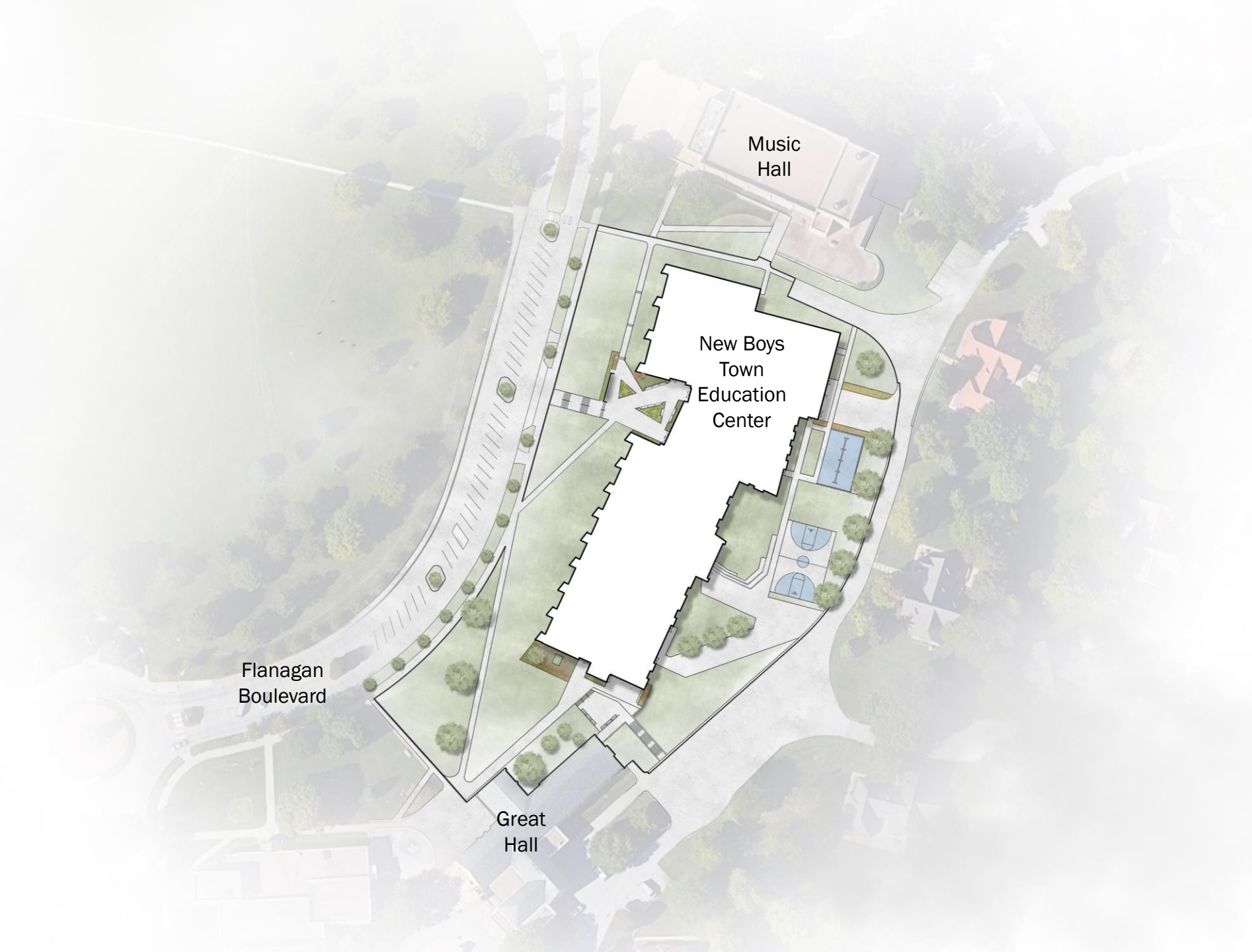


Guiding Principles

- Safe & Innovative
- Flexible & Adaptable
- Honoring the Past & Looking Toward the Future
- Creative & Inspiring

Research Influence

- Flexibility
 - Activity Settings
 - Space Density
- Individualization
 - Physical Needs are Unique
 - Student Centered Design
 - Trauma Informed Design
 - Primary Relationships
 - Appropriate Privacy
 - Natural Connection
 - Visibility
- Naturalness and Nature
 - Adequate Acoustics
- Stimulation
 - Color Mood
 - Spaciousness



Flanagan
Boulevard

Music
Hall

New Boys
Town
Education
Center

Great
Hall

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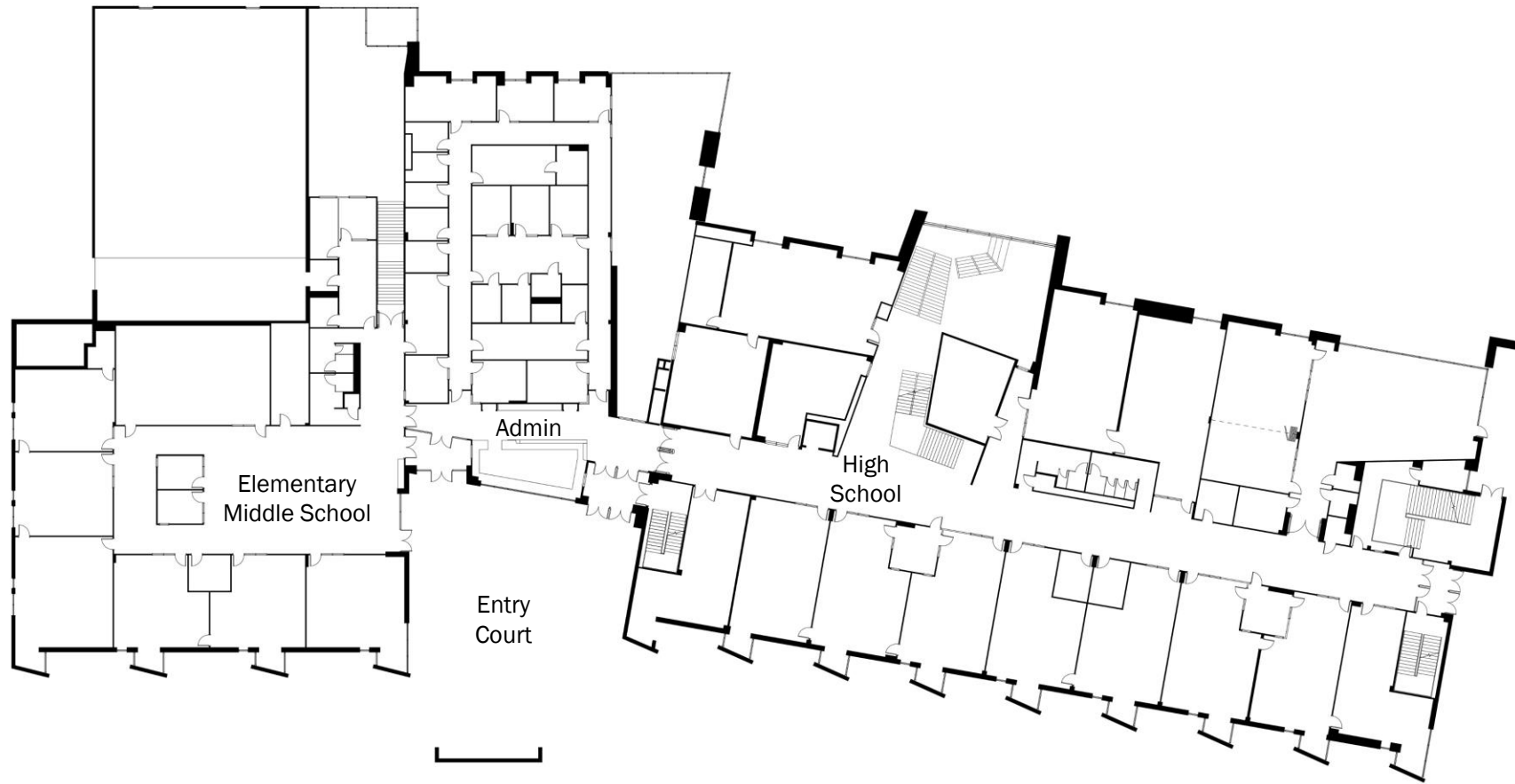
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Main Level



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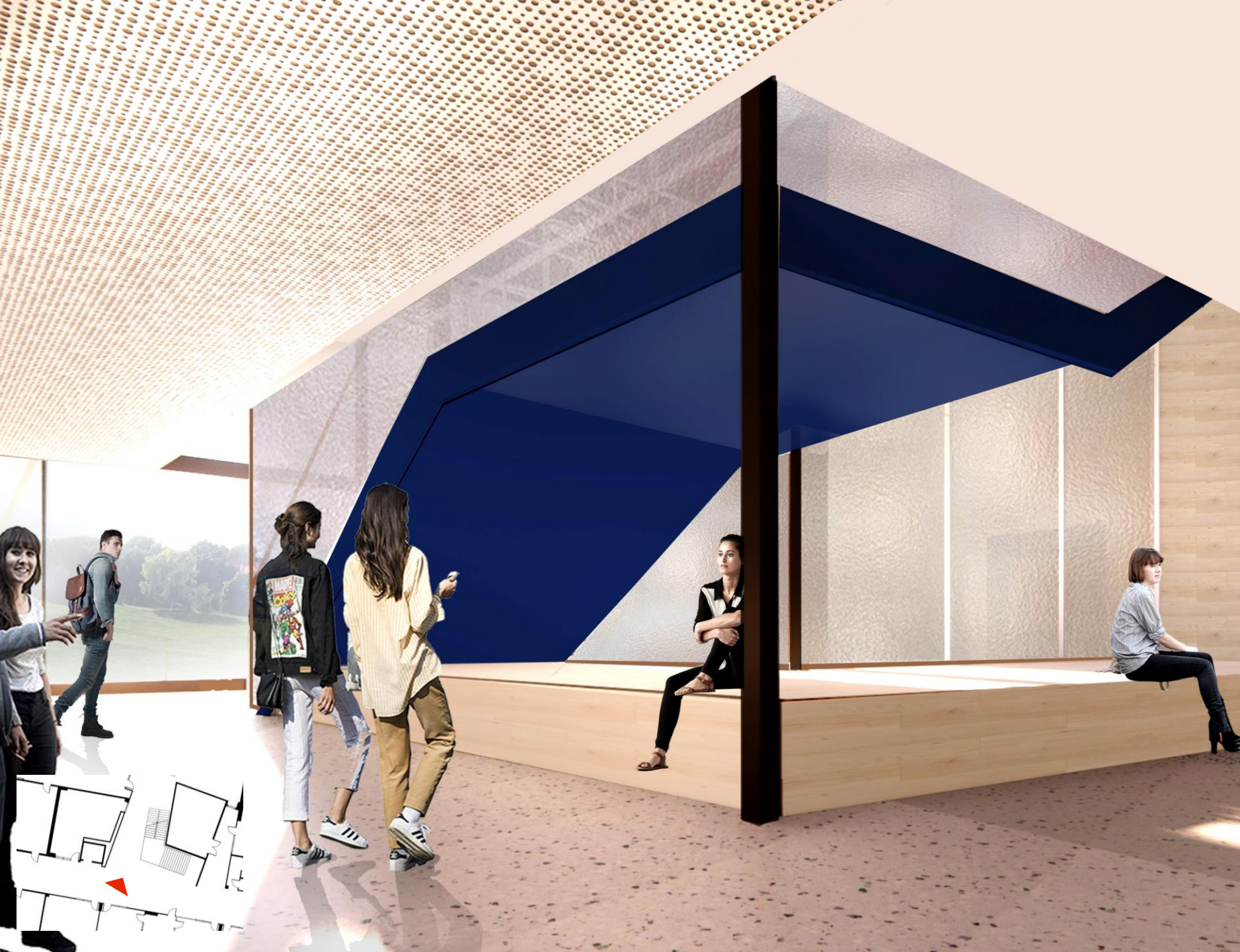


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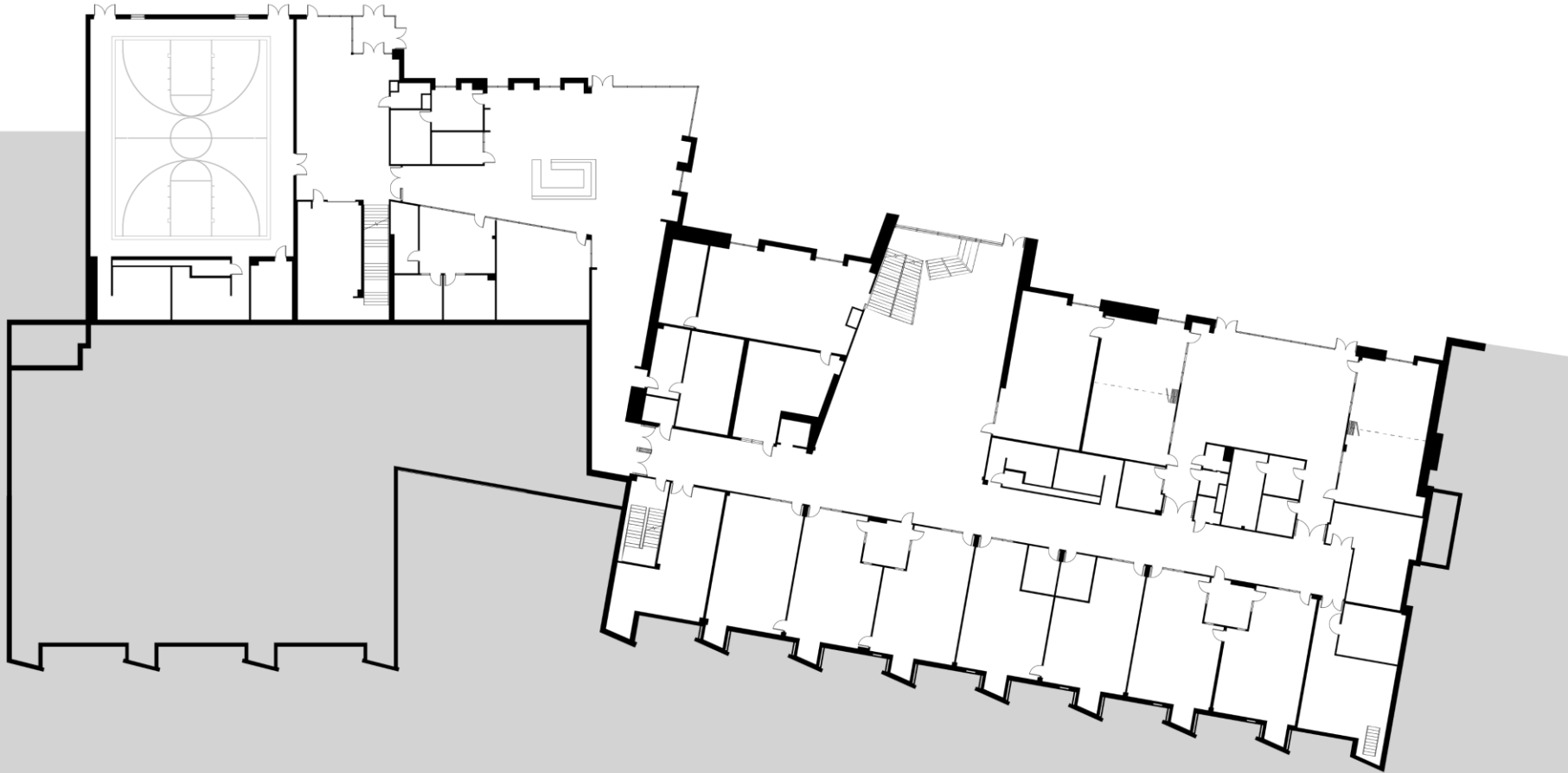
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Garden Level



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QUESTIONS?

