The Counterintuitive Middle School: Doing the "Right Thing" by Doing "Everything Wrong"

A4LE Northeast Regional Conference Philadelphia, PA







An Experience in 4 Parts



The Right Thing but Everything Wrong

Question for Participants

Background + Complications

The Process

Visioning Workshops

Scheduling

Space Needs

Question for Participants

The Design Solution

Question for Participants

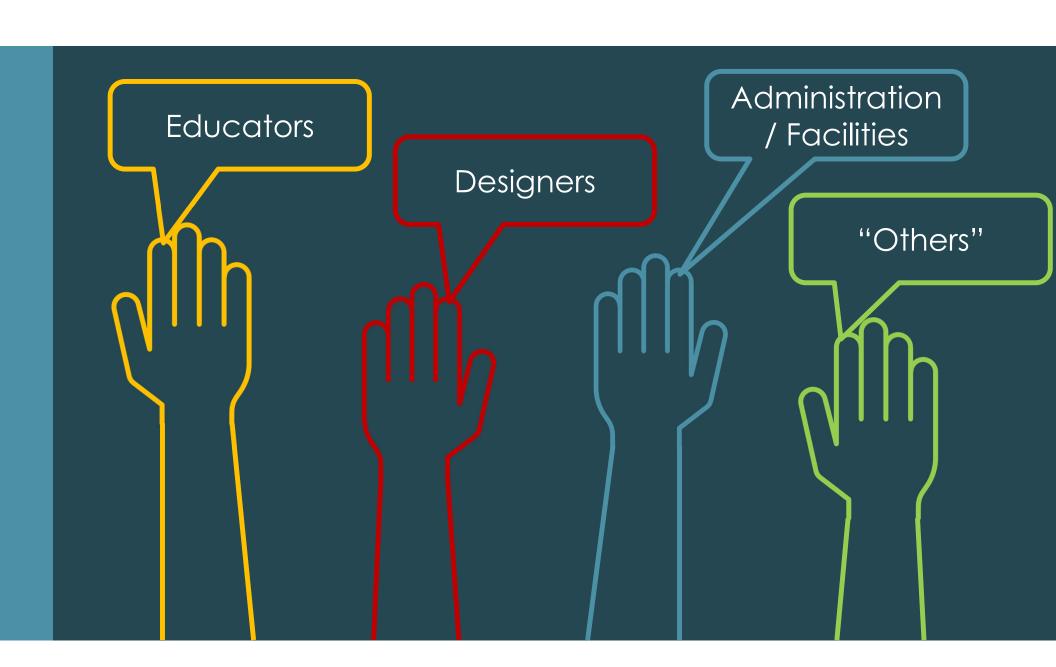
Closing

Questions <u>from</u> Participants









Introductions



CHRIS HOWELL

Superintendent RSU 14



DREW PATIN

Principal Windham MS, RSU 14



JAY DOHERTY

Principal, Lavallee Brensinger Architects



Dr FRAN LOCKER

Locker Education + Architecture Planning

Introductions











The Right Thing but Everything Wrong







STANDARD MS



CORE ONLY TEACHER TEAMING DIFFERENT PLANNING TIME

SEPARATED
"SPECIALS"

DICTATED BELL SCHEDULE DISCONTINUITIES
FOR TEACHERS
+ STUDENTS

STANDARD MS



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RSU14 MS



ALL TEACHER TEAMING PLANNING TIME TOGETHER

"SPECIALS"
PART OF
THE TEAM

SCHEDULE
BY TEACHER
& PROJECTS

CONTINUITIES
FOR TEACHERS
+ STUDENTS

What would be the most difficult aspect of this to implement on your (most recent) school? And WHY?







Part Background + Complications







DISTRICT HISTORY

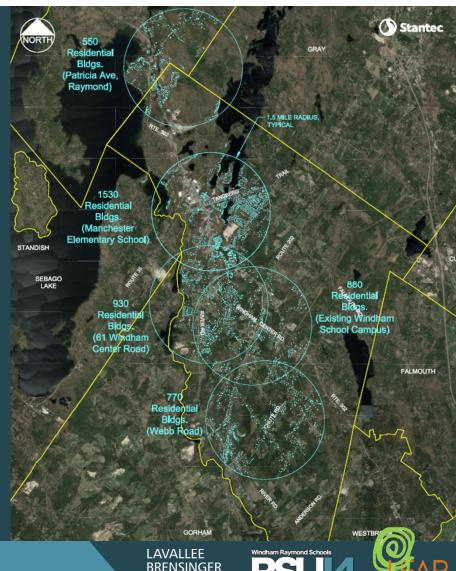
Pre-RSU14 Separate but unequal Middle Schools One (6-7-8) MS + another (5-6-7-8) MS

2009 **RSU14** Formed

Post RSU14 Consolidation Separate but unequal Middle Schools One (6-7-8) MS + another (5-6-7-8) MS

2015 Proposal Close Jordan Small Middle School

2016 + 2020 Raymond Withdrawal Proposal from RSU







Current RSU14 MS's

Jordan-Small Middle School Windham Middle School



Serves Students: Grades 5 – 8

Location: Raymond

Enrollment: 166 Students

Opened pre-1967 as an

Elementary School

Serves Students: Grades 6 – 8

Location: Windham

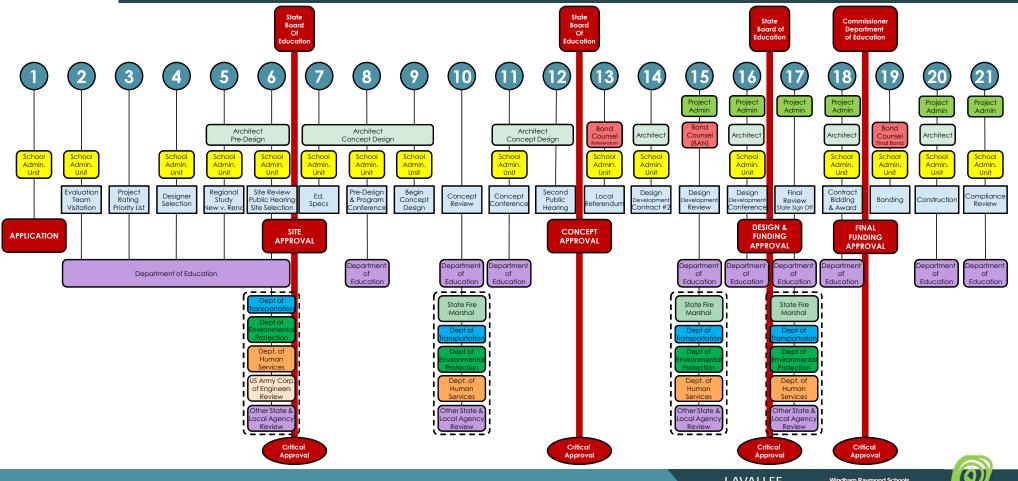
Enrollment: 598 Students

Opened in 1977 as a

Junior High School



"Simple" 21 Step State Building Aid Process



LAVALLEE BRENSINGER ARCHITECTS



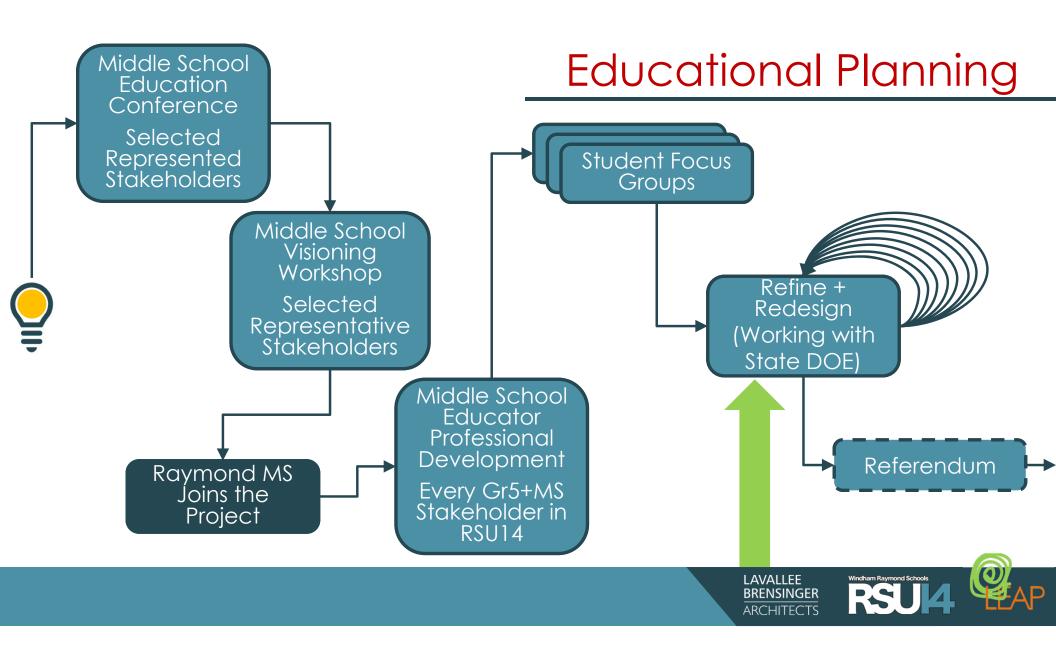


Part The Process









THE PROCESS

Address both MS's together

District Master Plan added 5th grade

Meanwhile politics unfolded



EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

- Teacher/Student Relationships
- Small Learning Communities
- Collaboration on Social + Communications Skills
- Growth Opportunities



BRENSINGER ARCHITECTS

VISIONING WORKSHOP Educational Vision

- Teacher Collaboration
- Student Collaboration
- Personalized Learning
- Innovation not Standardization
- Continuous Innovation
- Fluid + Adaptable
- Project-Based Learning



VISIONING WORKSHOP Facility Concepts

- Small Learning Communities
- Learning Circulation
- Opportunity not Equity
- Flexible Spaces
- Interdisciplinary **Planning**
- Flexible Student-Controlled Furniture









ALL STAFF PD WORKSHOP

Share Concepts:

3 Most Important Issues:

- Student Engagement
- Social/emotional skills
- 21st Century Skills

Hopes + Concerns?

Feelings About the Process?









STUDENT FOCUS GROUPS 1, 2, 3

Share Concepts:

Vote with "thumbs"

- What do you like?
- What don't you like?
- Why?



STUDENT VIEW OF SCHEDULE

ADVISORY = BUILDING COMMUNITY

Double Amount of Time in High Interest Specials

25+ Minutes of Class Changing Time Converted to Learning Time

DAY A	DAY B
WELLNESS +	SCIENCE
SCIENCE	MATH
MATH	ADVISORY
SOCIAL STUDIES	SOCIAL STUDIES
ELA	ELA
STEM	STEM

_	DRAFT - RSU14 Middle School Schedule 2026-2027						
Н	A Day: Teams 5A&5B	A Day Towns EASED A Day Towns ECSEA A Day Towns CRESC A Day Towns 7AS7D A Day Towns 7CS0A A Day Towns CRESC					Wellness+ Teacher
	B Day: Teams 5C&6A	B Day: Teams 5A&5B	B Day: Teams 7A&7B	B Day: Teams 6B&6C	A Day: Teams 8B&8C	B Day: Teams 7C&8A	
706	7:05-7:10 Student Arrival	7:05-7:10 Student Arrival	7:05-7:10 Student Arrival	7:05-7:10 Student Arrival	7:05-7:10 Student Arrival	7:05-7:10 Student Arrival	7:05-7:10 Student Arrival
7:10		J.J.J.C.R.FHILITE	3,300,174,114	Statement	J. J	Judgett Ferring	Dissert Fairer
7:15 7:20 7:25 7:30 7:36 7:40	7:10 - 8:10 Ignite	7:10 - 8:10 Ignite	7:10 - 8:10 Ignite	7:10 - 8:10 Ignite	7:10 - 8:10 Ignite	7:10 - 8:10 Ignite	7:11-8:10 Direct instruction of Band/Orch Students: Lessons, Replacement PE, Replacement
7:45 7:50 7:55 8:00 8:06							Spanish
8:15 8:20 8:25 8:30 8:30 8:40 8:45	8:10-9:20 Staff: Common Planning Time	8:10-9:05 Block 5	8:10-9:05 Block 1	8:10-9:05 Block 5	8:10-9:00 Block 1	8:10-9:05 Block 5	8:10-9:20 Wellness+ Block A Days: Teams 5A & 5B
850 855 900 905							B Days: Teams 5C & 6A
9:10 9:15						9:05-10:00	
9:20					9:00-9:50		
925 930		9:05-10:00	9:05-10:00	9:05-10:00	Block 2		
935		Block 4	Block 2	Block 4		Block 4	9:20-10:10
9:40	9:20-10:10 Block 1			/			Common Planning Time
945				/			
9:55							
1000				1			
10:10					9:50-10:40		
1015				1	Block 3		
1025		10:00-10:55 Block 3	10:00-11:10	10:00-11:00		10:00-11:00	10:00-11:10
1030	10:10-11:00 Block 2		10:00-11:10 Staff: Common Planning Students: Wellness +	Block 3		Block 3	Wellness + Block 2 A Days: Teams 6B & 6C
10:35			Students: Wellness +	/			B Days: Teams 7A & 7B
1045				1	10:40-11:00 Lunch		
1050					tuna.		
1100	11:00-11:20	10:55-11:35					
1106	Lunch	Advisory		1			
11:15			1	11:00-11:40 Advisory			
1126		11:20-11:40		Advisory	11:00-11:55 Block 4	11:00-12:00	
1120		Lunch	11:10-12:00 Block 3		Block 4	Block 2	
1136			Block 3		1		
1145	Block 3	Block 3 11:40-11:95 11:40-12:00	11:40-12:00			11:10-12:40	
1150			1	Lunch		-	Lunch Duty (20 min) Duty Free Lunch (20 min)
Noon)		Individual Planning time (50 min)
12:06			12:00-12:20 Lunch		11:55-12:45	12:00-12:20	min)
12:15						Advisory	
12:20		11:55-12:55 Block 2			Block 5		
12:26 12:30	12:10-1:00			12:00-1:00 Block 2		12:20-12:40 Lunch	
12:35	Block 4			/			
12:40 12:45			12:20-1:10 Block 4			12:40-1:00	
1250		Block 4			Advisory, Cont'd		
1255		1					+
106							
110				1	12:45-1:55		12:45-1:55 Wellness + Block 3
1:15		12:55-1:55		1:00-1:55	Staff: Common Planning Time Students: Wellness+	1:00-1:55	A Days: Teams 7C & 8A
125	Block 5	Block 1	1:10-1:55	1:00-1:55 Block 1	3	1:00-1:55 Block 1	B Days: Teams 8B & 8C
100			1:10-1:55 Block 5	1			
140							
145				1			
155	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal
_							

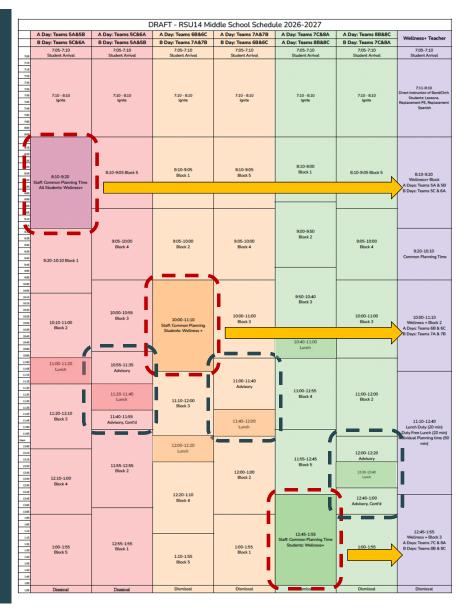
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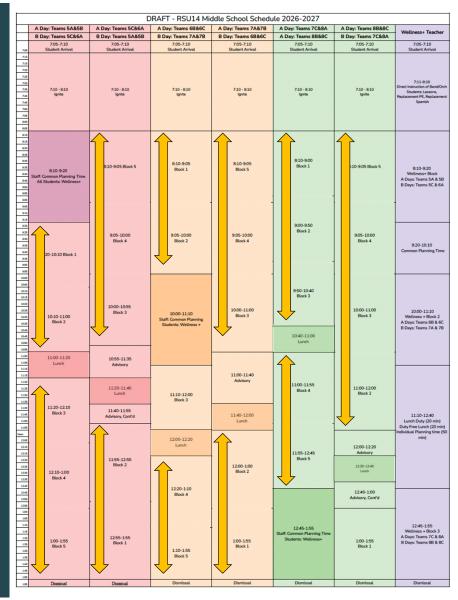
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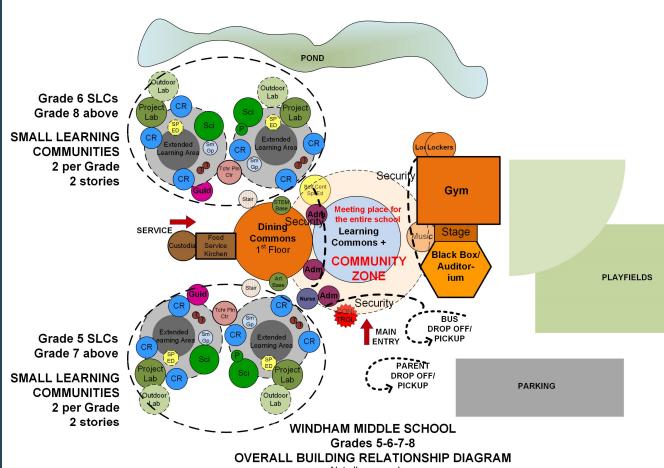
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SPACE PLANNING

Overall Planning Diagram



Not all spaces shown Number of Classrooms not determined



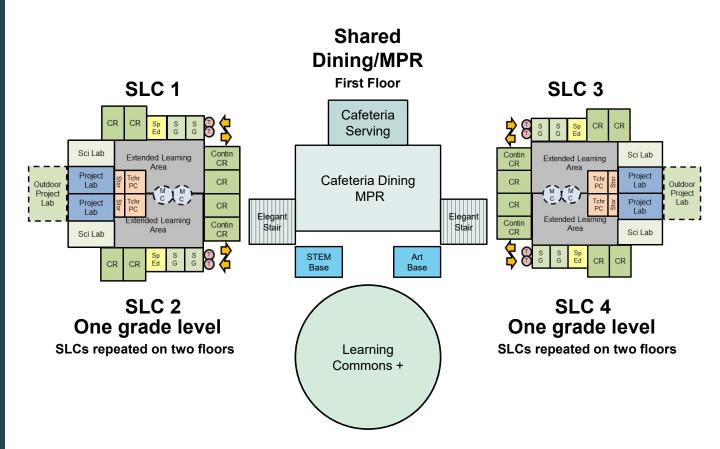




SPACE PLANNING

Small Learning
Community Planning
Diagram

Two Grade Levels + Services





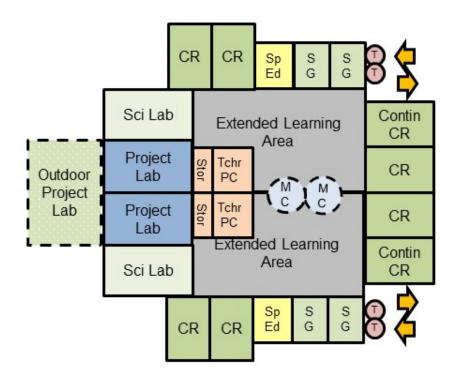




SPACE PLANNING

Small Learning Community Planning Diagram

One Grade Level



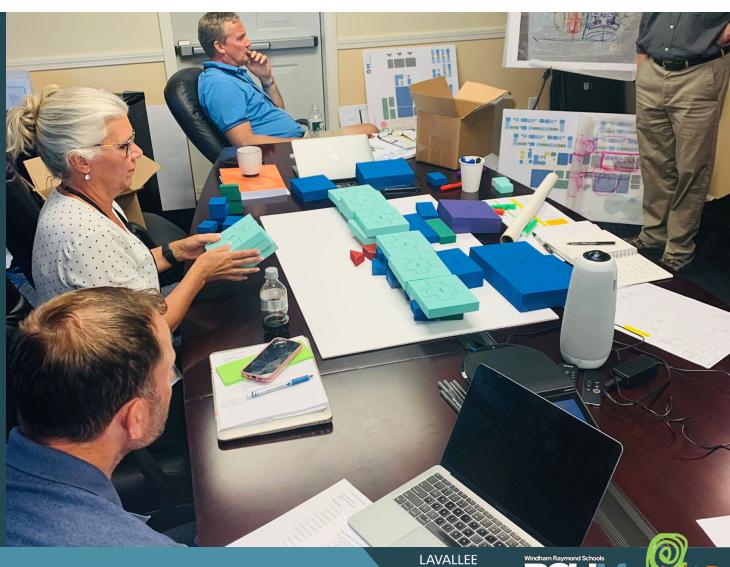






3D PLANNING

Understanding Space Relationships in the Third-Dimension



LAVALLEE BRENSINGER ARCHITECTS



What challenges do you see in this Space Planning concept?







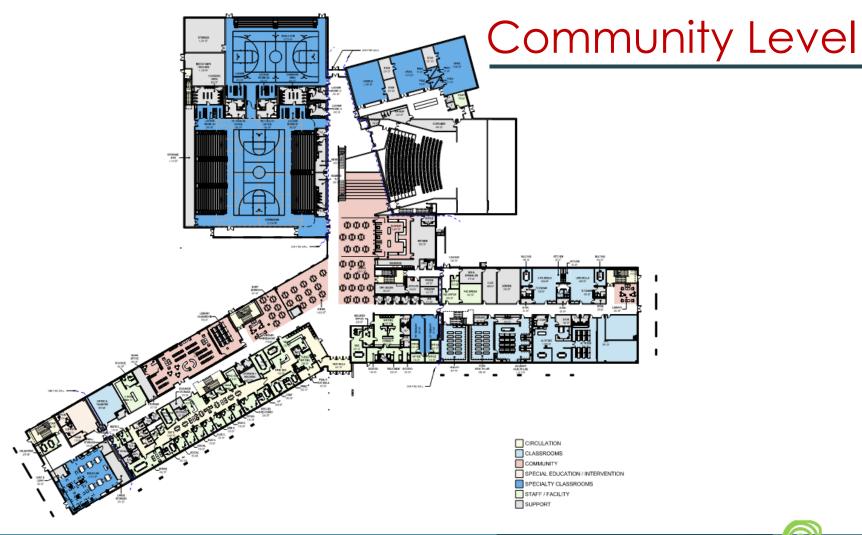
Part The Design Solution







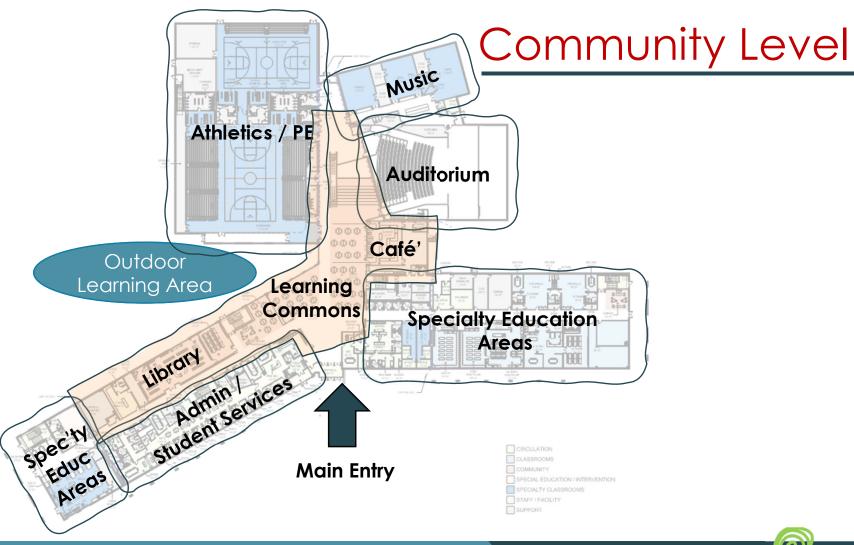
















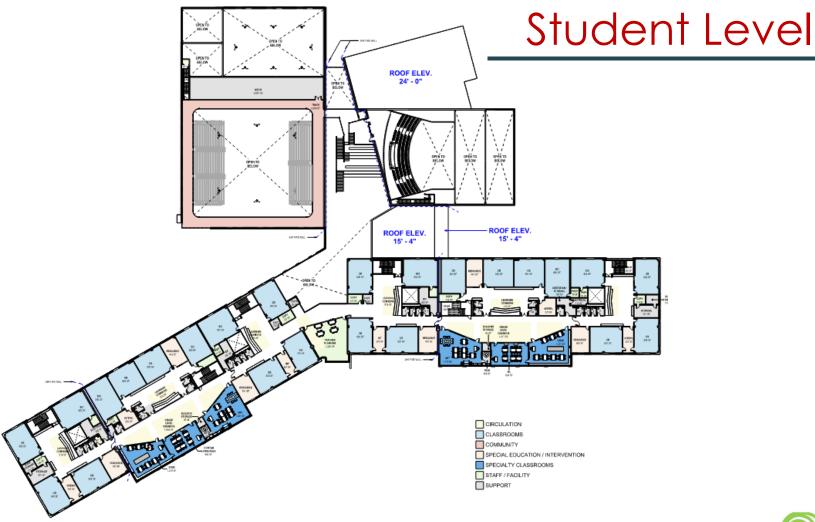




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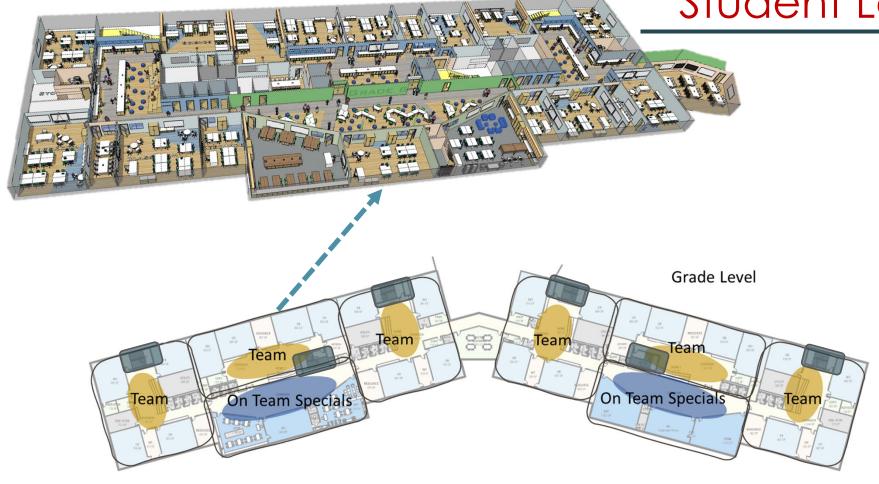








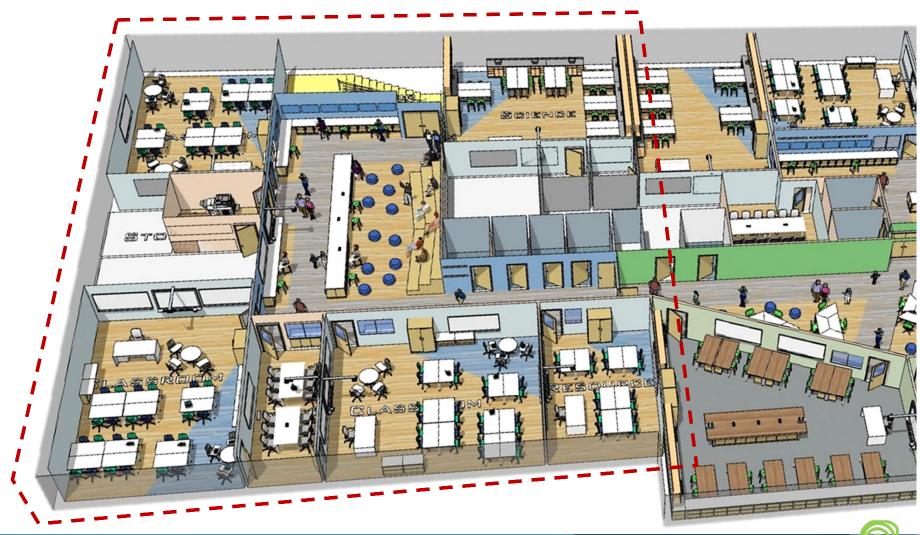
Student Level











LAVALLEE BRENSINGER ARCHITECTS







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Can you guess what % of overall floor area is devoted to "circulation only" (hint, a typical MS is 15-20%)?







Do you have any questions for us?







Goodbye! Thanks!

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