

# "KIDS LOVE CHOICES, SO THE FLEXIBLE SEATING OPTIONS ALLOW THEM THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE WHAT WORKS FOR THEM, AND THEY HAVE OWNERSHIP OF THEIR LEARNING SPACE."

ANGELA SOPER, JARDINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

## LOCATION

Jardine Elementary School  
Topeka, KS

## ARCHITECT

Schwerdt Design Group

## SIZE

124, 203 sq. ft.

## THE CHALLENGE

When considering how to advance their schools into 21st Century Learning, the Topeka School District began the task of creating combined schools that housed multiple grade levels. For the Jardine Elementary School, this progressive development meant that they would build a new school, combining students from three neighborhood elementary locations. The entire campus houses elementary and middle school students. The construction and furnishing of the new elementary school focused on being efficient and also addressing the updated needs of its 744 students.

Principal Angela Soper had a plan that came to fruition with the development of flexible seating options in each classroom, and discovery areas sprinkled throughout the facility. At the heart of her plan was giving the students the ability to choose which furnishings fit their daily activities as well as their individual style of learning. Each day, they are offered choices – from the chair they sit in, to the hallway learning they partake in, to the discovery areas that they utilize. These choices empower the students and allow them to focus and learn in the manner that best suits their capabilities.

## THE DESIGN

Through the design process, Soper knew she didn't want to develop a cookie cutter school. She wanted to establish a space that encouraged collaboration and taught self-management. The students are encouraged to arrange and rearrange furniture in the discovery areas to make it comfortable

for the task they are working on, but are reminded to move furniture back to where they found it. This self-management grants them the power to make learning comfortable and fun, but they are also learning to be responsible and respectful.

## THE FURNISHINGS

Jardine Elementary chose National's furniture to outfit a wide variety of spaces. Soper chose National for its ability to uniquely outfit many environments and deliver a consistent style throughout the facility. National's furniture can be found in the principal and staff offices, administrative meeting spaces, nurse's station, private meeting areas, and training rooms.

National's product is also in each classroom, STEAM and art rooms, cafeteria, discovery areas, and two libraries. In addition to the classroom furnishings, National's solutions are utilized for hallway learning and breakout pods where students get one-on-one attention from staff.

## THE RESULTS

The staff is proud to work in a new facility that's filled with furniture solutions that support non-traditional learning. This evolution has sparked their creativity and they find themselves teaching the students with a newfound passion. By offering the

students various flexible seating within the classrooms as well as in the alcove spaces, the staff teaches pupils to embrace change and the furniture options allow them to focus on learning.

## SCOPE

- Private Offices
- Training Spaces
- Discovery Areas
- Makerspaces
- STEAM Room
- Art Room
- Libraries
- Collaborative Areas
- Conference Rooms
- Training Rooms
- Cafeteria
- Nurse's Station

## PRODUCTS

- Accessories
- Disc Base
- Epicenter
- Exhibit™ Wall Rail Solution
- Farrah® Lounge
- Footings™ Tables
- Grin® Seating
- Jewel™ Seating
- Jiminy® Seating
- Lavoro® Seating
- Reno® Lounge
- Staccato® Tables
- Strassa® Tables
- Swift™ Lounge
- Waveworks® Casegoods and Tables
- Whimsy® Seating



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