

A media center is a place where students research, discover and explore their ideas.

Libraries have changed dramatically. No longer are they exclusively furnished with tall, static bookshelves. In many schools, this space has morphed into a multi-media center where students research, discover and explore their ideas.

Media centers are the hub of the school. These are now flexible spaces that accommodate technology, teaching and versatile student or community groupings. Focus on providing furnishings that allow students and staff to be comfortable, tech accessible, with easy access to resources.

As you're planning your media center or library think about what you are trying to accomplish, how it will be used, where it will be located and how it will integrate with the grade level or learning community. Here are some questions to help guide your discussions and ultimately the best ways to set up your environment.

What is the focus of the space?

- Lounge area?
- Technology?
- Café space?
- Literature space and availability?

How will the space be used?

- Flexible spaces for students to group
- Guided instruction groups
- Large group instruction
- Student presentation in small and/or large groups
- One to one technology devices
- Community events
- Parent meetings

Do you have storage needs?

- Do they need to lock?
- What will be the weight requirements?

What constraints do you have in the room?

- Electrical
- Water fountain / Sinks / Bathrooms
- Built in cabinets
- Stationary technology (Desk top computing systems, interactive whiteboard)
- Doors / Windows