The “Making” of a Makerspace

Burgettstown Area Elementary Center
2015–2016
Kickstart Making in Schools

We were fortunate to be selected as one of ten schools in the region to form a partnership with the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh. Through many generous donations during our 30-day Kickstarter fundraising campaign, we successfully raised $7,500 to transform a traditional classroom into a Makerspace. The museum staff provided guidance and expertise throughout the project, as well as professional learning opportunities for our teaching staff.
A Makerspace is a place where students can gather to create, invent, and learn using various high-tech and low-tech materials. In this space, content areas merge and critical thinking flourishes.
Previously, this space served as a traditional Science lab.

BEFORE...
DURING...

CLEANING, ORGANIZING, FUNDRAISING, & DESIGNING
Burgettstown
Furniture Plan

scale: 1/4” = 1’-0”

prepared August 18, 2015
for review and comment
Many thanks to our maintenance and custodial departments for making our vision become a reality!
AFTER...
Collaboration
Flexible Seating
Mobile LEGO Carts

LEGO Side Tables
Low-tech Making Materials

Many household/everyday items, as well as craft materials, can be used in design challenges or making experiences.

Rotating Storage Bins
Accessible Materials
Literature Connections
Variety of Media
Project Displays
High-tech Making
Materials

Exploring Conductivity

Squishy Circuits
High-tech Making Materials

Exploring Circuitry

Makey Makey

LittleBits
Exploring Robotics with Cubelets
A Shift in Instructional Practices

**Connect**
Capturing students' interest is the key to learning.

**Construct**
Engage both hands and minds to solve the given mission.

**Contemplate**
Predict and reflect the outcome of activities to retain learning.

**Continue**
Taking on more difficult challenges to enter a positive learning spiral.
Ask your child about their experiences in the makerspace. We will host a showcase in the spring so families can tour the space and preview student projects.
Stay tuned....
We're “making” it happen!

Creativity is intelligence having fun.