

2 Key Supporting Themes

Design Characteristics

The district presents a series of design characteristics to serve as guidelines for future schools:

Flexible and Agile

Developing learning environments that are easily adaptable to changing student populations, educational programs, and delivery of student services is critically important. Spaces should be planned to accommodate varying degrees of adaptability from daily user modifications such as operable partitions and flexible furnishings to substantial modifications including reconfiguration of spaces.

Outdoor Connections

The development of exterior spaces for teaching, collaboration, mentoring, performance, and social interaction will create a school where learning is pervasive. Natural light and outdoor air will be provided to interior learning environments to enhance staff and student performance.

Student Spaces

Relationships are a key element in student success and should be encouraged through spaces for interaction and socialization. The development of environments that are diverse in activity and size will be provided to ensure a feeling of safety, belonging, and inclusion for all students.

Technology

The students and teachers tools in education spaces should respond to the evolving technological and necessary equipment.

Collaborative

The learning environment should create opportunities for student, teachers, and the school community to develop the collaboration and communication skills to build relationships and thrive in the global workplace.

Sustainability

Healthy learning environments and operational efficiency will be included in all decisions for a high performance school. These will include design strategies utilizing daylight, natural ventilation, and others to improve student health and performance. Material and system selections will emerge from features that enhance maintenance, ease of operation, and operational costs.

Transparency

Transparency is a key element in establishing learning environments that support collaboration and community by allowing for a greater sense of connection. Greater levels of transparency enhance supervision and allow learning to be visible and pervasive, facilitating building student safety and academic growth.



Flexible and Agile



Outdoor Connections



Student Spaces



Technology



Collaborative



Sustainability



Transparency

Design Guidelines



Douglas McArthur Elementary School - Alexandria, VA