

Carpenter Elementary School

K-8 Enhancement Community Meeting

November 13, 2018

"Carpenter's Best"



Michael Johnson - Principal

Visited Both K-8 Schools in Ann Arbor

- We visited Ann Arbor Open and A2STEAM
- Our primary focus of this visit was infrastructure.
- We would benefit from talking to both schools more about other specifics.
- Both Administrators a wealth of information, tips, and suggestions and also were candid and honest about K-8 lessons learned.
- AA Open has 540 students
- AA STEAM has 630 students

Visit to Ann Arbor Open

Gymnasium & Gym Space

- They do not have a full size middle school gym (still elementary sized).
- There is an upper and lower playground for outdoor time -- K-2 plays on lower while 3-8 play on upper playground
- School has experimented with putting K-2nd with 7-8th outdoors on the playground with great success.
- Not successful to put K-2 with 3-5 because they are too close in age (upper elementary students are much bigger, but not mature enough to know to be careful)

Visit to Ann Arbor Open

Orchestra/Band/Music & Instrument Storage

- They have a separate room for Orchestra, Band, and Music.
- The Band room is small, with low ceiling, and isn't soundproofed correctly, which makes it really loud inside the room.
- They need more space for instrument storage.



Visit to Ann Arbor Open

Classroom Spaces Particularly Middle School Areas

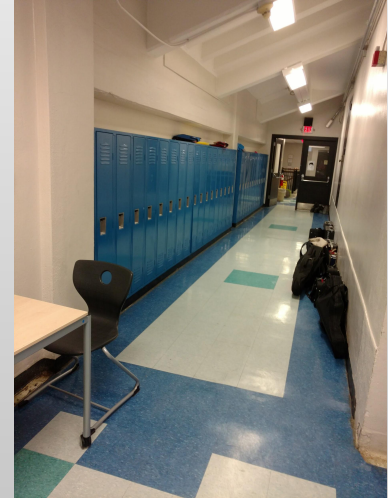
- Middle school spaces upstairs (7th and 8th)
- Half of 5th/6th grade classrooms are downstairs
- 5th and 6th graders can choose (with teacher and parent recommendations) to stay downstairs or move upstairs based on readiness.
- Hallways seemed narrow
Had community areas (for morning meetings)



Visit to Ann Arbor Open

Classroom Spaces Particularly Middle School Areas

Middle school lockers



Visit to Ann Arbor Open

Classroom Spaces Particularly Middle School Areas

Life Skills Classroom (kitchenette included)



Visit to Ann Arbor Open

Science & PLTW Lab Spaces

- They have a designated PLTW space (also doubles as shared storage space for some instruments)
- Storage is a big issue for science equipment

Visit to Ann Arbor Open

General Storage



- They don't have enough storage.
- They have one room that sort of houses everything, along with smaller teacher workrooms.

Visit to Ann Arbor Open

Offices & Small Group Learning Spaces

- OT/PT Counseling services small rooms can be found around the media center interspersed between classrooms.
- Some teachers form partnerships and co-teach so have classrooms and community spaces next to or near each other.
- Teachers gather students at the “story steps” in the media center for reading - everything is open concept. Traffic flow can be tricky.

Visit to Ann Arbor Open

Green School Elements

- A2 Open is an old school (1 of 3 Art Deco buildings in the district - part of the building is 100 years old).
- No additions have been added since the 70s
- There are no Green School Elements in the physical structure due to age.

Visit to Ann Arbor Open

Parking

- They have issues with not enough parking.
- Have a separate teacher parking area and a designated bus drop off area
- Extremely high parent involvement so that means more cars at the school.



Visit to Ann Arbor Open

Other

- Library/Media center is an open layout in the middle of the school. Seating areas for group or buddy reading.
- K-6 classrooms surround open concept media center.
- Main office opens onto media center.



Image taken from AA Open website

Visit to Ann Arbor Open

Other

- They do hold all school assemblies in their MPR, but it is a tight squeeze.
- They have a designated aftercare room.
- Lockers, but no padlocks - locks not needed because of the school culture and community rituals.
- Mack Pool is connected to the school space through double doors. Major multi-use building.

Visit to Ann Arbor Steam

Gymnasium & Gym Space



- New gymnasium and locker rooms built as part of expansion.
- They have basketball and volleyball games for middle school in the gym.
- Issue with gym not being wide enough for bleachers to extend all the way.

Visit to Ann Arbor Steam

Gymnasium & Gym Space



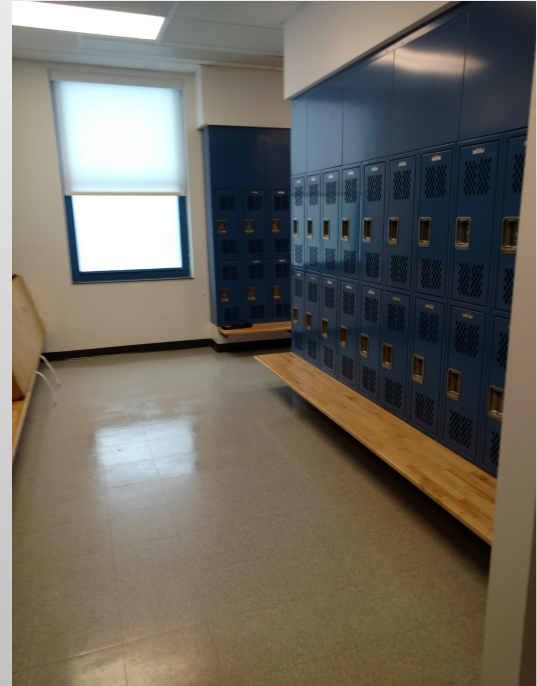
- Good size storage room and office for P.E. Staff

Visit to Ann Arbor Steam

Gymnasium & Gym Space



Locker rooms



Visit to Ann Arbor Steam

Orchestra/Band/Music & Instrument Storage

- Band/orchestra held in a classroom - upgrade from previous situation
- Still need more storage for instruments

Visit to Ann Arbor Steam

Classroom Spaces Particularly Middle School Areas

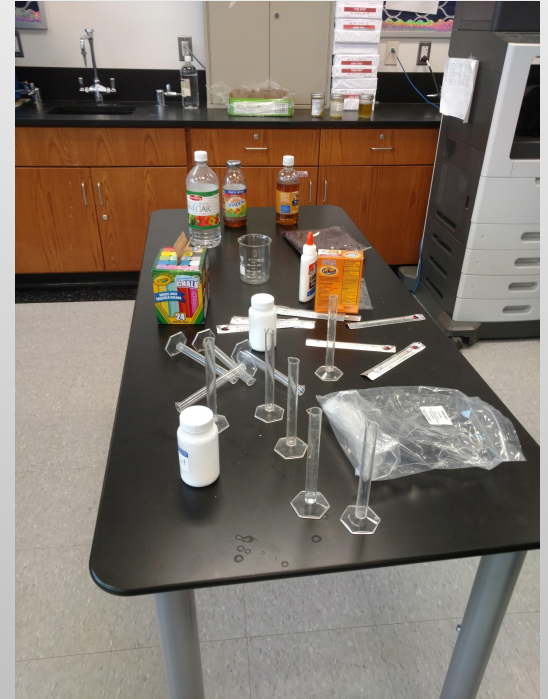


- Middle school classrooms upstairs, head downstairs for electives
- Added new wing onto existing wing, and new build above existing space.
- Lockers for each MS student with built in combinations.
- Hallways are 8 feet wide (10 feet less 2 feet for lockers).

Visit to Ann Arbor Steam

Science & PLTW Lab Spaces

- 2 science labs built.
- Multiple sinks
- Access to air and gas for experiments
- Tables specifically designed for science
- Recommend more locked space for chemicals etc



Visit to Ann Arbor Steam

Science & PLTW Lab Spaces

MAKERSPACE



Visit to Ann Arbor Steam

General Storage

- They don't have enough storage areas and recommend factoring in storage space in our designs of the expansion.
- QUOTE - "Ask for 5 times more storage than you think you need"

Visit to Ann Arbor Steam

Offices & Small Group Learning Spaces

- They have a conference room that they use for meetings - tech connections present.
- Middle school floor has an office suite at the end for Social Work, Psychologist, and other staff.



Visit to Ann Arbor Steam

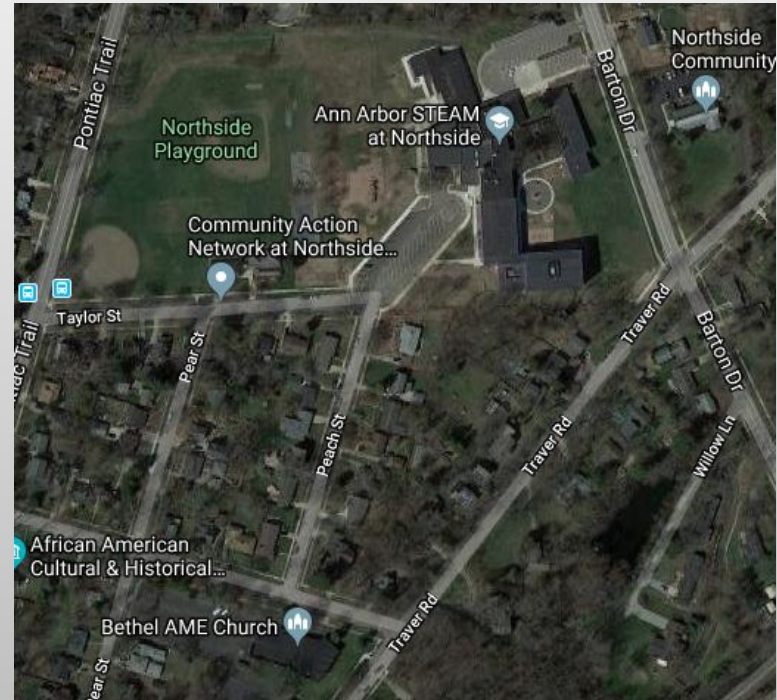
Green School Elements

- Outdoor Gardens
- Terrascaping
- After school club focused on ecology
- Chickens!
- Project Based Learning focus means students do a lot of real world projects, many on green school elements such as energy audits

Visit to Ann Arbor Steam

Parking

- Huge Challenge.
- They are still trying to figure this out. Lots of kids get dropped off and are utilizing churches that are near school as drop off points.
- Working with the community has been beneficial.
- They also formed a safe routes to school committee.



Visit to Ann Arbor Steam

Other



- Multipurpose room about the size of ours. They don't have enough space for all-school assemblies and split them K-4 and 5-8.
- Library didn't get much of a remodel, but had to put in grants to get more shelving and books to accommodate needs of middle school.
- Hallways are cramped.