

# ENRICHED CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENTS & FLEX SPACES

**Enriched Classroom Environments**

**<http://tinyurl.com/n6v852k>**

# BRAIN-COMPATIBLE CLASSROOMS

- Lighting
- Organization
- Colors and Patterns
- Wall Space
- Music
- Plants
- Materials
- Movement
- Choice

# LIGHTING

- Several studies show students learn best in natural light
- Variety of light options is optimal:
  - Brightly lit areas are energizing
  - Darker areas with lamps are calming
- Resource: [Lighting Tips from Starbucks](#)



# ORGANIZATION



## **Ditch the Clutter**

If you haven't used it in a year, get rid of it.

## **Uniformity**

When possible, keep organization items such as bins and baskets uniform in style/color.

## **A Place for Everything and Everything in its Place**

Students can learn where everything goes.

## **Resources:**

[Physical Clutter Negatively Affects your Ability to Focus](#)

[How Clutter Affects your Brain](#)

# COLORS AND PATTERNS

- One main color
- One (maybe two) accent colors
- Neutrals
- Natural materials
- Think “home-y”; not “classroom-y”
- No pattern overload
- Natural materials (wicker baskets, burlap ribbon, fabric, etc rather than plastic)



# SAMPLE COLOR PALETTES



# WALL SPACES

- Bulletin boards
  - Made of fabric
  - Textured or natural materials for borders (such as ribbon rather than paper)
  - All bulletin boards made of the same colors & materials. Not a hodgepodge.
- Purposeful! If it doesn't serve a useful purpose, take it down.
  - Put something up when you need it; take it down when you don't. Items can be accessible without being on the walls.
- Uncluttered method to show student work
- Visible thinking walls



# FLEXIBLE SPACES

WHAT ARE YOUR STUDENTS DOING IN YOUR CLASSROOM? WHAT SPACES ARE NEEDED TO SUPPORT THOSE ACTIVITIES?

- Standing Table
- Table with regular chairs
- Floor Table
- Movement Stools (if possible)
- Variety of Tables & Spaces
  - Large Group
  - Small Group
  - Individual Spaces
- Choice
- Get rid of excess furniture
- Community Supplies
- Makerspace (all supplies available for students)

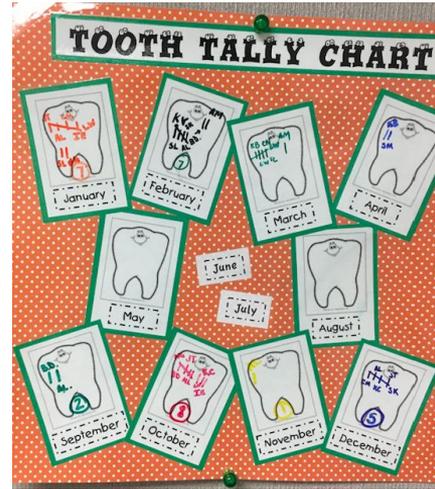


Resource: [Spaces Designed for Active and Engaged Learning and Teaching](#)

# BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

- Organization considerations
  - Student items (folders, notebooks, books, etc); community supplies
- Choose colors
- Fabric and ribbon for bulletin boards
  - Coordinating fabric for curtains or faux curtains if possible
- Lamps
- Plants
- Re-Use furniture for flexible spaces
- Tie it together with details: Spraypaint bins, cover magazine holders in contact paper, mason jars of pencils, picture frames, words, labels, hide clutter with fabric, etc.

# DETAILS



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# DO-IT-YOURSELF IDEAS

\$10 thrift store table and paint; stools decorated to coordinate



Chalkboard Paint



Re-purposed church pews and a school table to make a comfortable booth.



# PHOTOS

Open Space



Visible Thinking Walls  
& Tables



# PHOTOS



**Seating Choices:**  
High, Low, Floor,  
Standing, Stools,  
Soft Surfaces,  
Conversation Area

