
Methacton High School Planning Educational Impact

September 17, 2024



Educational Overview

Dr. Ché Regina

The Educational Lens

- Educational lens of a new building
- Additions vs. Reductions
- Top education, activities, and athletics recommendations from the committees
- Baseline program spaces

Top Education, Activities, and Athletics Recommendations

9.1 Build a state of the art facility that will prepare our student body for their current interests and desired careers, inspire our faculty and staff and engage our community.

10.1 Create standalone athletic wing that contains pool, gyms, weight room, locker/team rooms, etc. that will allow for parking, accessibility, and visitor management/security.

11.3 Develop a S.T.E.A.M. (Science/Technology/Engineering/Art/Math) Center for collaboration and engagement for all students, staff and community on a first floor location with natural sunlight.

7.4 Provide proper spaces for music program, science program, Life Skills Education, ELD program, Technology Education program, and FCS program along with proper sized spaces and locations within building for offices and hallways that provide a high level of accessibility and movement.

6.1 Re-design/re-purpose/build large group gathering areas (LGI, Cafeteria, auditorium, library).

Top Education, Activities, and Athletics Recommendations

3.1 Increase available spaces to:

- Bring currently outsourced programs back into the high school, and;
- Provide opportunities for the development of new programs and supports for all students.

6.4 Culture - Create open spaces throughout the building with flexible seating options and in consideration of lunch and learn program.

7.3 Create innovative learning spaces to provide more opportunities for collaboration, engagement, and authentic learning.

3.2 Create an ADA friendly educational environment that provides consideration beyond that of the current code to optimize access and learning for all students.

Baseline Program Spaces (included in each option)

Existing High School Program Spaces

PLUS:

- PDE standard sized classrooms
- 2 Additional science labs
- 6 Small group spaces (8-15 seats/Rm)
- 1 Large group space (LGI – 100 seats)
- Additional Storage
- Fab Lab
- Special Education
 - Apartment program
 - School store
 - Sensory room
- Lunch & Learn
- 4 Academic support commons
- 1 Outdoor learning courtyard
- Auditorium balcony with flexible seating
- Indoor track
- 8 Lane pool
- Main gymnasium (1,600 seating)
- Wellness/fitness Center
- Field house
- District Office

Presentation Breakdown

Curriculum

- Small group spaces (8-15 seats/Rm)
- Large group space (LGI – 100 seats)
- Academic support commons
- Fab Lab
- Lunch & Learn

Special Education

- Apartment program
- School store
- Sensory room

High School

- Instructional planning centers
- Science laboratory spaces
- Performing Arts, Theater, and Music
- 8 lane Pool
- Field House
- Student Input

Curriculum

Dr. Matthew Walsh

Small Group Spaces

- Definition
 - Flexible learning spaces to allow for small group instruction
- Educational benefit
 - Opportunities for practice, remediation and/or extension learning for smaller group sizes
- We envision...
 - Students working with teachers for extra support for concepts and skills that may need reinforcement or extension
 - Students provided with a space for those that may need extra time to complete an assignment

Large Group Space

- Definition
 - Large flexible learning spaces to allow for whole group as well as small group instruction
- Educational benefit
 - Opportunities for larger groups to meet to collaborate and work in varying groups, often times with multiple classes in the same space
- We envision...
 - Students working in this space that allows multiple classes to collaborate and to share ideas and resources with one another
 - Students utilizing this space that allows for guest speakers, presentations, and shared opportunities to a larger audience

Academic Support Commons

- **Definition**
 - An open area of the school that is dedicated to having small group or larger group discussions and presentations.
- **Educational benefit**
 - This space allows for collaborative conversations, group presentations, and flexible options for small and large group instruction
- **We envision...**
 - Students working in an open space that allows for smaller, collaborative groups to complete tasks and to share presentations and assignments with their peers

Fabrication Laboratory (Fab Lab)

- Definition

- A place where people can learn, create, and invent using advanced technology.
- Small-scale workshops that provide access to tools, materials and skills to create using innovation and creative thinking skills.
- Offers access to a variety of tools, including printers, cutting tools, and milling tools to design and build

- Educational benefit

- Innovation, hands-on, and problem solving in a space to support STEM and 21st century skills.

- We envision...

- Students working on various tasks to design and build using critical thinking and collaborative skills
- Students using technology and digital fabrication to allow for creation and invention
- Students taking their creative idea and turning it into a prototype or even a product

Lunch and Learn

- Definition

- A dynamic initiative designed to provide students and staff with time to address academic, social-emotional, and future preparedness through a school wide common time in the daily schedule
- Time is set aside during the day to encourage a sense of community among students and staff. It gives students an opportunity to eat together, as well as pursue other needs or interests

- Educational benefit

- Flexible way for students to reinforce previously learned skills, intervention and extension time, collaborate and connect with their peers, and to work with clubs and activities.
- Enhance collaboration by maintaining a supportive atmosphere through mutual trust and accountability and by providing the necessary structure and resources.

- We envision...

- Students having an opportunity to eat lunch, receive academic support, access teachers and counselors, socialize with friends, participate in study groups, make up missed work, and take or re-take assessments.
- Students managing their time by having choice and flexibility based on their needs or interests.
- Students being provided time to meet their academic, social, and emotional needs during this common period.

Special Education

Dr. Jamie Gravinese

Apartment Program

- Definition

- Aspect of transition that focus on a student's ability to live independently.
- Designed to give students with disabilities, ages 18 to 22, the tools necessary to live in the real world. Assists students with developing independent living skills in an apartment setting.
- Use real-life activities that teach how to live independently and successfully.
- Fully-furnished apartment setting with a kitchen, bedroom, computer room, living room and bathroom.

- Educational benefit

- An apartment program provides for us a continuum of supports for transitional services for our special education students.
- Transition Services can be thought of as a bridge between school programs and the opportunities of adult life, including higher education or training, employment, independent living, and community participation

- We envision...

- An innovative educational program aimed at teaching students life skills, independence and responsibility in a real world setting.
- Students will be given an opportunity to receive Life Skills, Financial Literacy, Conflict resolution and communication, job skills and real life application of skills.

School Store

- Definition
 - A school store is a business within the school setting that sells items to students, staff members and parents. The inventory usually includes items like clothing, school supplies, backpacks, umbrellas and other miscellaneous items.
- Educational benefit
 - Opportunity for us to engage in school spirit, but is also a transition opportunity for our special education students to learn, practice and demonstrate vocational skills without having to leave our campus.
 - A school store allows students to practice financial management, marketing and workplace etiquette.
- We envision...
 - An opportunity for students to learn a variety of life skills in a real world environment.
 - A program that not only provides an opportunity to bring our school community together, but to provide our special education students job skills and vocational opportunities.
 - Students will learn skills related to budgeting, financial transactions, sales forecasting, entrepreneurship, marketing, interpersonal skills, collaboration and problem solving.

Sensory Room

- Definition
 - A sensory room in a high school is a space that provides sensory experiences to help students with their sensory needs and improve their ability to learn and interact with others.
- Educational benefit
 - A sensory room helps students self-regulate, deescalate, and regain control.
 - Provides students the input from sensory activities and sensory rooms enabling them to participate more fully throughout the day.
 - Can prevent outbursts and also manage behavior problems.
 - Promotes self-care, resilience, and recovery.
 - Provides a more immediate ability for students with sensory needs to get back to baseline and back to their education.
- We envision...
 - A space that provides a more immediate ability for students with sensory needs to get back to baseline and return to their regular or special education setting.

Methacton High School

Dr. Debra Euker

Instructional Planning Centers (IPC)

- Maintaining the current number of classrooms rather than moving to the IPC model is important because:
 - Classroom Environment: Sharing classrooms limits set up time, personalization of space, accountability, display of student work
 - Travel Time: Adding travel time to teachers schedule limits ability to alter things between classes (ex. arrangement of desks)
 - Climate: Classroom climate and culture could be harder to establish
 - Routine: Individual classroom routines could be compromised
 - Storage: Limited storage of personal and professional items
 - Privacy: IPC's lack private space for teachers to talk to students or parents
 - Prep Time: Some teachers require quiet and solitude during their prep time

Science Laboratory Spaces

- Maintaining the same amount of lab space is important because:
 - Scheduling: multiple teachers teach the same period, Some teachers have three classes and three preps, waiting for lab availability could compromise timing, teacher absences
 - Multiple day labs: It would be very difficult to schedule labs that last for multiple days
 - Safety: Some classes use chemicals students have to be trained to handle
 - Equipment: All labs would require all the same equipment instead of catering to the specific subject
 - Accountability: Since the room “belongs” to no one, equipment, papers, projects, etc. can be forgotten and begin to pile up.

Performing Arts, Theater, and Music

- The most crucial elements for the performing arts area should consider:
 - Capacity/Audience Seating
 - Combined Choral Room and Dance Studio
 - Dressing Room
 - Scene Shop for Safety

Pool: Eight Lanes with Bulkhead

- Swim Class within the PE curriculum
- High School Swim Team Practice and MAC Swim Team
- Community Education: Swim Lessons, Open Swims, Aerobics
- Versatility and Flexibility of Pool with a Bulkhead
- Supports Growth of Competitive Programs
- Increase Capacity
- Safety Considerations
- Equal access to pool for ALL community members through Zero Entry
- Opportunity for Methacton's Pool to be a Community Hub

Field House

- Field house would provide:
 - Locker rooms close to the stadium for teams to use.
 - Indoor storage space for all of our teams that use the stadium area
 - Additional bathrooms for spectators
 - Dedicated practice space for wrestling
 - Indoor practice space for teams, marching band, color guard
 - Large press box for home/away teams to use
- Coaches feedback:
 - Need to make sure we have enough storage space for all of our teams that need it
 - Indoor practice space needs to be large enough for our teams to utilize
 - Too small and wouldn't be able to use for a whole team

Student Input

- Classroom Size
- New and Quiet HVAC System
- Academic Common Areas
- New Ideas
- Field House
- Weight Room/Indoor Track
- Pool
- Outdoor Courtyard
- Traffic Flow

Summary

- Passion for Programming
- Commitment to Methacton
- School in 2050 and Beyond
- Creating Opportunities
- Planning for the Future
- Building of the Future

