



Madeira High School—Perin Learning Commons Cincinnati, OH

MSA Architects worked with Madeira City Schools to convert a 45-year-old library into a new, dynamic Learning Commons. The state-of-the-art, 21st-century learning environment is the hub of the campus. It incorporates a variety of spaces for collaboration, socialization, exploration and large group (100+) functions along with advanced connectivity and a robust technology



network. An underutilized exterior courtyard was adapted as outdoor classroom space and a private after-hours entrance for the Commons.

Prior to the renovation, the space functioned much like a traditional library with quiet spaces and an abundance of book stacks. It was primarily used for study hall during the day. Views to the outside were blocked by vertical blinds that were rarely open and the furniture was heavy, uncomfortable, and did not allow for flexible use. Students and faculty did not feel the space was integral to the learning that was going on at Madeira High School and it did not support their educational or community needs.

As part of the transformation, the traditional "circulation desk" was replaced with a tech bar and presentation lounge that accommodates individual and group learning. Here students and faculty can check out multimedia equipment and get IT assistance. Walls were removed and large masonry piers in the middle of the space were replaced with minimal steel supports clad in wood slats, improving the overall function and use of the space. Four new large, round skylights bring natural daylight into the heart of the learning commons and new larger high-performance exterior windows improve connections to the outdoors.



Remodel/Adaptive Reuse/ Restoration

Media/arts/performing arts center

MSA Architects

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DESIGN TEAM

CMTA, Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing
Engineering
Schaefer, Structural Engineer
Mark Spaulding Construction, General Contractor

OWNER/CLIENT

Madeira High School
Madeira, OH
Steve Kramer, Superintendent
513/891.8222

KEY STATS

Grades Served: 9–12
Capacity: 100
Building Area: 5,000 sq. ft.
Space per Student: 50 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: \$7,500
Square Foot Cost: \$150
Construction Cost: \$750,000
Project Cost: \$1,100,000
Completion Date: October 2014
Percentage of Renovated Space: 10%

PHOTOGRAPHY: JH PHOTOGRAPHY INC.



A new perforated metal ceiling reveals the building systems above the ceiling, allowing students to better understand their complete environment. Faculty use it as a teaching tool for certain curriculum.

In addition to replacing existing mechanical, electrical and technology systems, the school has embraced the opportunity for a more sustainable environment with a new geothermal heating and cooling system. In conjunction with this, a life-cycle cost analysis for utility and operations costs saves the school thousands every year. The result of this transformation is a multifunctional, multisensory collaborative center focused on synergistic learning enhanced by progressive technology.

Perin Learning Commons transformed the way students and faculty interacted and used the space. Students were immediately engaged in active learning, exploration and collaborative interaction. Now students, faculty and the community have a flexible, adaptable, multipurpose space that supports ever evolving learning methodologies both now and well into future.

