



Milan Center for Innovative Studies

Milan, MI

New Construction/Addition
Entire school/campus building

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Misty Raatz
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DESIGN TEAM

Misty Raatz, Project Manager
Carla Remenschneider, RID, Interior Designer
Michael J. Dul & Associates, Landscape Architecture
Nowak & Fraus, Inc., Civil Engineer
Barton Malow, Technology Designer

OWNER/CLIENT

Milan Area Schools
Milan, MI
Bryan Girbach, Superintendent
734/439-5050

KEY STATS

Grade Served: 12
Capacity: 180 students
Size of Site: 80 acres
Building Area: 23,000 sq. ft.
Space per Student: 127 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: \$40,150
Square Foot Cost: \$314
Construction Cost: \$5,257,000
Project Cost: \$7,227,086
Completion Date: August 2012

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It isn't every day that you learn how to build a solar-powered boat. But for students at the new Milan Center for Innovative Studies (MCIS), this is just one in a series of breakthrough educational opportunities meant to prepare them for the job market or higher education. MCIS is home to Milan Area Schools' new project-based learning program, which is designed to help high school seniors take the next step in their journey toward lifelong learning.

MCIS is designed with the understanding that no one teacher or class "owns" a space. An open commons connects specialty labs and support areas that serve multiple programs. Mobile furniture and an open arrangement of space allows the environment to take on



whatever form is needed. A variety of gathering areas—ranging from the central Grand Stair to informal soft seating areas—encourage spontaneous collaboration. A robust technology infrastructure allows learning to occur primarily through school-provided laptops and tablets.

MCIS has received rave reviews from staff members, as well as representatives from other school districts. "Seeing the students come in every morning, watching the magic happen—this is Disneyland for me," says MCIS Director Kevin Upton.