Facilities for 21st Century Learning

Health and Wellness

Food, nutrition, health education, and physical activity are significantly important in the lives of students and are incorporated into their daily lives at school. Increasingly food courts are featured in schools to provide fresh food with a variety of healthy choices. Food can be prepared centrally and served centrally, or distributed throughout general learning settings in the school. In schools with a culinary arts program, this program is often collocated with the food service functions. Common concepts in 21st Century schools include a combined cafeteria and auditorium—benefiting from the large space required for each. This concept offers an advantage for community access for functions that are shared with the public. Similarly, the information center is sometimes located within the space of the cafeteria dining area.

The gymnasium, outdoor play lots, and playgrounds provide the customary opportunity for physical activity for students at school. A gymnasium with a full-size basketball court can provide movable seating with sufficient capacity for the entire student body. Space for professional development for coaches is also provided. Some schools include a fitness center to supplement the traditional opportunities for the students’ physical development.

Markham Woods Middle School, Lake Mary, Florida, Photo credit: George Skene, Orlando Sentinel

Burton Elementary and Middle School, Progressive Architects, Grand Rapids, MI

Adlai E. Stevenson High School, Cannon Design, Grand Rapids, MI