



K-12 INSIGHTS





HERITAGE

CONTENTS

3 Introduction

5 Insights

Think KI	5
Space to Create	7
Play-Based Learning Spaces	9
Project-Based Learning	11
Classroom Planning	13

17 Inspiration

For more inspiration, visit ki.com/K12



INTRODUCTION

Insightful, Responsive Educational Spaces

Supporting active, learning-centered approaches.

As we look toward the future, what might the learning environment of tomorrow become? Supporting the development of world-class learning environments has been – and always will be – at the very core of KI. It’s what we do best. KI built its reputation for excellence in education over 70 years, working shoulder-to-shoulder with our educational partners to support a “customer of one” experience and develop a roadmap for future innovation, specific to your unique learning culture.

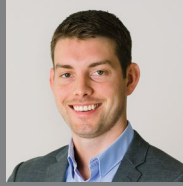




Think KI

Through the eyes of our customers

By Bryan Ballageer



BRYAN
BALLAGEER

VP Sales & Marketing -
Education, KI



Before I joined KI, I was a customer myself. As director of operations at Success Academy Charter Schools, I oversaw furniture selection and other supply chain initiatives for more than 45 campuses.

I ended up making the move to KI largely because of the positive experience I had as a customer.

Recently, Hanover Research was commissioned to ask school administrators, designers and dealers their opinions on several leading furniture brands in the education space. We wanted to see what makes people “Think KI.”

THINKING INSPIRATION? THINK KI.

Respondents identified KI’s sales team as the most knowledgeable in the industry. When I was at Success Academy, I could count on KI to help me determine the right furniture solutions for any space. KI’s team knew the market and the trends in education -- and happily offered advice and inspiration.

More than 75 percent of survey respondents believe KI is the smartest choice for education furniture. Ninety percent believe our furniture is the most well-made on the market.

These findings echo my own experience; whenever I needed durable solutions for Success Academy, I immediately thought of KI.

THINKING INNOVATION? THINK KI.

Across the education market, survey respondents considered KI to be the most innovative and “in the know.”

The Infinity from KI program consists of our team of specialists, who work to meet customers’ exact needs by modifying existing products or creating a product from scratch.

For instance, for one customer we designed a scaled-down Learn2 Junior to support younger elementary school learners.



For another customer, we designed lightweight, high-density desks that stack up to 20 high, making it perfect for multipurpose spaces.



As a customer, I witnessed KI’s expertise firsthand. The 45 campuses I managed at Success Academy came in all shapes, sizes and ages. Some buildings were constructed in the 1930s, while others were built in the 1980s, so I certainly ran into some unique

challenges. Thankfully, the KI team always helped me get creative in order to meet our needs.

THINKING INCLUSION? THINK KI.

At KI, we believe that one aspect of inclusivity is ensuring access to high-quality furniture at all budgets. More than 80 percent of survey respondents said that KI offers unique products at competitive prices.

We also believe inclusivity means collaborating closely with our customers. Seventy-five percent of designers and architects surveyed chose KI as their preferred higher education furniture brand. We believe that’s due in large part to our unmatched customer service.

While I was at Success Academy, KI struck me as transparent and trustworthy. If I ordered 10,000 products, perhaps two might have been delayed. In the rare instances where that happened, my KI contacts called immediately to inform me -- and provided substitute products to hold us over.

I also appreciated that the KI team remained flexible when we ran into hiccups on our end. School deliveries and renovations involve a lot of moving parts. I had to balance the schedules of tradesmen, teachers, community members and the like. The KI team always made the timelines work so the school year could kick off without a hitch.

PUTTING CUSTOMERS FIRST

We welcome the opportunity to hear from our customers, A&D and dealer community partners so that we can keep doing what works -- and rethink what doesn’t.

Space to Create

Fostering creativity and adventure for young learners

Think back to when you were in elementary school, whether that was a decade or a half-century ago. The memories that have stuck through all those years probably aren't of specific math worksheets or reading assignments but of learning experiences you had.

They're the times when you were allowed to be creative and adventurous. Those are the moments when children learn the most.

For me, it's the six-foot-tall model of the Statue of Liberty I made out of papier-mâché for a group project in 5th grade. What's the learning experience you remember?

In the insights that follow, we consider the benefits of letting young learners create their own experiences in the classroom – and how to build an environment that supports creative, adventurous pursuits to enhance the learning process.



CREATE LEARNING WITH CREATIVE LESSONS

Let's start by taking a look at the research. A Gallup study on creativity in the classroom found that K-12 teachers who regularly assigned tasks that encouraged students to think creatively were much more likely to see enhanced cognitive skills among their students compared to teachers who didn't. These skills included drawing connections between different subjects, retaining more material, demonstrating deeper understanding of topics, and improved problem-solving and critical-thinking abilities.

Engaging with creative tasks in the classroom also corresponded with greater levels of confidence among students in their ability to master challenging material, an increased willingness to take risks and responsibility for their learning, and a greater desire to learn more about topics taught in the classroom.

When students feel confident about their ability to learn, their mood and morale improve, too.

Creative activities—like a group project illustrating the four seasons or the rock cycle—encourage interaction between students. These interactions can improve social emotional skills in addition to life skills – including how to share, work with a team, and solve problems.



MAKE SPACE TO CREATE

Rows of bulky desks aren't conducive to classroom configurations that allow older students to practice their rhetorical skills in a circle – or younger ones to connect their arms to form the letters of the alphabet.

Classrooms should move with students in their creative states. Furniture on casters empowers students to arrange and rearrange the classroom as they see fit – or as required by the creative activity in which they're engaging.

Educators and designers should also put themselves in the shoes of students. The youngest learners tend to engage in their most adventurous, most creative play on the floor or low to the ground. Classrooms should reflect that reality, with layouts reminiscent of playrooms at home.

Comfort and movement can also stoke creativity. Classrooms with nooks that include soft lounge furniture or chairs that allow students to move and fidget while seated may unleash learning that a more traditional layout cannot.

FIND JOY IN THE PROCESS

The early years in school are a time when a student's creativity can come alive. They're when kids begin to find beauty in the small things – and use the environment around them to enhance their learning.

But younger learners are not the only ones who benefit from free creative play. Students of every age learn better when they're doing – when they're engaging with and truly experiencing the material before them.

Play-Based Learning Spaces

Make sure your classroom works hard so students can play hard

Walk into a kindergarten classroom, and you may see students building towers out of blocks, nursing stuffed animals back to health or creating works of art with finger paint.

Those who visit a third-grade classroom, by contrast, are unlikely to see this kind of play-based learning, where students initiate learning on their own and solve problems with minimal teacher guidance.

We believe playtime is for students of all ages. With that in mind, here are a few ways educators can harness the power of play in the classroom.

PLAY COMES IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

Thanks to the pandemic, many of this year's youngest students are interacting with their teachers and classmates in person for the first time. Seeing facial expressions is crucial to reading and language, not to mention social and emotional development.

Young kids aren't the only ones who benefit from play. Older students can develop creativity, dexterity and emotional strength through play-based learning. In one study, 97 percent of teachers who incorporated learning through play and



games saw increased engagement among students.

Teaching fifth-graders to appreciate storytelling by putting on a puppet show or asking third-graders to go on a scavenger hunt for pieces of the world map can lead to a deeper understanding of the material as well as improve social skills, increase confidence and teach them independence.

THE ROLE OF SPACE

Pieces that move easily and support a diverse array of activities make it easy to bring the whole world inside the classroom.

Letting older students take a break from multiplication tables to play games together may seem like a waste of scarce instructional time, but play is the most natural form of learning. Whether they're in pre-K or college, most students don't want to sit in one place all day.

Designing the right classroom can help teachers and students return to the play mindset at the core of learning. In a play-based learning environment, the space serves as an auxiliary teacher, where students learn from their interactions and experiences. The teacher then serves as a facilitator rather than a lecturer.

CREATE YOUR OWN PLAY SPACES

Play-based learning environments will vary between schools and grade levels. No matter their age, students always need to have the freedom to move – even while seated.

Free creative play offers students the opportunity to interact with materials, toys or supplies, as they see fit. Cubbies can help keep everything organized, so

anytime can become playtime.

A play café lets students pretend they're running their own coffee shop. Here, they can create a menu on the markerboard, order a meal, make food and interact with “customers.” This teaches kids social skills such as patience and responsibility while sneaking in a language arts or math lesson.

Art studios offer students opportunities to express themselves, whether through paint, freehand drawing, found objects or other media. Teachers can also incorporate math lessons by encouraging students to “sell” their art or bid on others' works. For these spaces, easy to clean surfaces are paramount.

TAKE TIME FOR PLAYTIME

No matter their age, we should encourage students to follow their instincts and take time to play. By creating spaces that support them, we can turn students' natural wiggles into a learning opportunity.



Project-Based Learning

How to implement the model

WHAT IS PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

Project-based learning is hands-on learning. It's about kids—or learners anywhere—working together to figure out a solution without a teacher necessarily telling them. They're working together to discover an approach to solve a problem.

START

Start with the standard or concept you want them to learn. Then, you give them criteria that they can achieve to gain an understanding of the concept. Working to meet that criteria helps them get to a solution. Depending on the concept, it

could take weeks. It could take a day. It could take 20 minutes. The teacher's role is just to guide, just to support, not to tell them anything.

BENEFITS

Collaboration is the biggest benefit. Students are brainstorming and working together to come up with their ideas, rather than being given one single approach. Project-based learning allows students to think outside the box. They're not just sitting and receiving information. They're discovering and researching. They're coming up with different solutions together.



They're definitely more engaged. When students peer-review or peer-grade at the end of a project, this approach holds them more accountable. They all have to hold their own and do their part.

Students grasp and understand concepts better, too. They're gaining a more meaningful understanding, as opposed to just memorizing, reciting a lesson and moving on. They find a deeper purpose in learning and collaboration.

ASSESSMENT

Some teachers incorporate rubrics along the way. A student's final project -- whether it's a presentation or a product they've made -- demonstrates their understanding. Peer evaluation provides a lot of feedback as well.

CHALLENGES

If project-based learning isn't structured, it can be very chaotic and stressful for students and teachers. For some students, a lack of structure can be overwhelming. For a week-long project, you don't want to give students everything on the first day and just say, "Go." You want to have structure along the way, so students know they're making progress. They can check in and make sure they're understanding, versus waiting until the end and seeing that they failed.

Another struggle could be if a student doesn't get along well with their group members. Project-based learning can help them learn how to work with people and

as part of a team. For teachers, planning for project-based learning takes work. It can also be a challenge to make sure all students are getting their needs met because they're moving at different paces.

LEARNING WITH PURPOSE

The point is that the kids are thinking creatively. Some kids are more artsy, some are more mathematical. There are so many different intelligences. If you're looking for a common concept to be met, it's not helpful to limit the way in which it's met. Giving students creative freedom is a key part of project-based learning. And it's a huge advantage all around.

Collaboration, engagement and deeper understanding are just some of the positive outcomes for students when using project-based learning. With the right amount of structure, project-based learning can help students soar in the classroom and elevate excitement for teachers, too.



Classroom Planning

Be inspired!

BRILLIANT BIOPHILIC DESIGN

This space integrates a bright carpet space, a reading corner, a student collaboration area and ample tote storage.



MULTIPLE GROUP COLLABORATION

Mobile furniture throughout the space supports dynamic reconfiguration. A comfortable lounge corner with integrated tablet arms increases function and adds welcoming appeal.

PRACTICAL AND ADAPTIVE
Incorporating student pods with curved worksurfaces to increase belly room, this classroom offers a high-performing student environment.

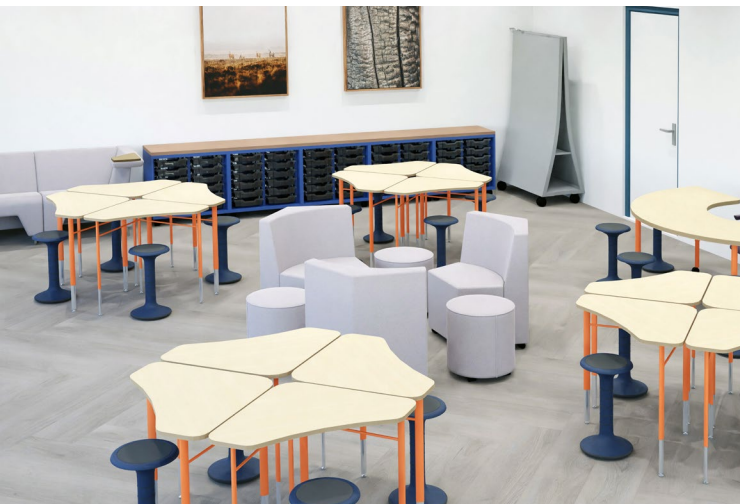


ACTIVE DESIGN SPACE

This classroom design promotes physical movement and collaboration for improved student learning and well-being.

COMPREHENSIVE AND EASY TO MOVE

This configuration supports collaborative learning and a variety of teaching styles.



DYNAMIC COLLABORATION
Ricochet stools promote physical activity and improve cognitive development for students. A central lounge hub offers dynamic space for student to collaborate in comfort.



MyPlace lounge seating



Ruckus 4-leg chairs w/casters, Pirouette tables



GET INSPIRED!

Learning can take place anywhere and everywhere. Visit ki.com/k12 for insight on furniture solutions that support the learning environments of the future.



Top: MyPlace lounge seating, Pillar tables, Strive café stools, Sway lounge chairs
Bottom Left: Learn2 seating w/Strive
Bottom Right: Dōni sled base chairs, Pirouette tables



Top: Ruckus stack chairs and whiteboards, Pirouette tables
Bottom: Imaginasion Blocks and Blips, Ruckus storage



Uniframe tables, Athens tables, Döni stools and stack chairs



Top: Intellect Wave café stools, Stout table, Ruckus storage
 Bottom: Pillar tables, Ruckus storage and whiteboards, 600 Series stools
 Back Inside Cover: Ruckus post-leg desks, MyPlace lounge seating, Sway lounge chair





KI is a trusted expert for furniture and wall systems around the globe.

USA | CANADA | MEXICO | UK | EUROPE | ASIA | MIDDLE EAST

1330 Bellevue Street • P. O. Box 8100 • Green Bay, WI 54308-8100 • 1-800-424-2432 • ki.com

© 2023 Krueger International, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Code KI-BR-000403/KI/PDF/0223

KI and Furnishing Knowledge are registered trademarks of Krueger International, Inc.