



Library to Learning Commons

Preparing today's students for tomorrow

Learning is no longer limited to the classroom or the school day. New possibilities in teaching and learning are supported by emerging practices and technologies that can be facilitated through a learning commons.

Learning commons are innovative, interdisciplinary and dynamic teaching and learning spaces which support and enhance learning. Often considered the hub of a school community, students work individually and collectively to construct meaning and form knowledge. The processes they use help them to become critical consumers of information, effective problem solvers and successful communicators.

A learning commons promotes the personalization of learning, inquiry and the integration of technology. The space, a blend of physical and virtual environments, transforms teaching and learning by allowing both staff and students to co-create knowledge.

The physical environment is flexible and adaptable to the needs of individuals, and small and large groups. It is an area where professional development, experiential learning, and action research may be incubated, explored and analyzed.

Learning commons reflect a transformational shift, requiring students to learn critical thinking skills, and grow sophisticated technological and literacy skills.



With fundraising support from EducationMatters, the Calgary Board of Education is leading the way in transforming existing school libraries into learning commons.

Your support is needed to ensure our students have the innovative tools they require to succeed.

Learning today, leading tomorrow

Students are encouraged to engage in their education as they decide how they will learn, and are inspired and motivated to become lifelong learners.

Technology assists in improving the learning process as teachers are able to record and evaluate their teaching methods, while expanding on traditional teaching methods and accommodating a variety of learning styles.

A story of impact

While in their school's learning commons, students at a CBE elementary school were asked to illustrate a story using small materials like string and beads. They would then capture the images of their illustrations using iPads. Through the use of hands-on activities, and technology available in the school's learning commons, a non-verbal student had a break through moment.

The student took his teacher's hand, and brought them to his desk to see his work. As he scrolled through the images on his iPad, he began speaking, "this is the man, and this is the whale," telling the teacher about his illustration. A spark of joy, and a massive moment of success.

**You can support this initiative and help create new learning spaces in CBE classrooms.
Contact us to find out how you can be involved!**