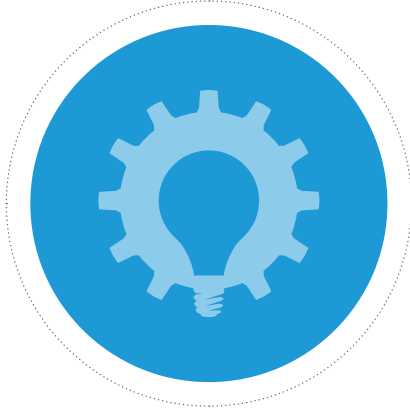


**INVENTIONLAND<sup>®</sup>**  
*INSTITUTE*

## A Case Study On Environment

2018



In the realm of education, some things are in a constant state of evolution, while others never seem to budge. But what happens when these two very different worlds collide?

As the Maker Movement and flexible classrooms have taken hold of our collective consciousness, we can indeed blend one world into another.

It happened, recently, at Haine Elementary School in Pennsylvania's Seneca Valley School District. Now, the school has a sprawling environment where a treehouse, clouds, green screens, laser cutters and so much more work in perfect harmony together.

**BUT IT WASN'T ALWAYS THIS WAY.**



# The Problem

Invigorating the school library had evolved from a want to a need. As the rows and rows of books and stationary desks became less engaging to modern students, the challenge became obvious—what's next?

PHOTO COURTESY OF INVENTIONLAND INSTITUTE

Here they had plenty of space and the proverbial bones to build on. However, maximizing the potential of the area was a daunting task.

What would it look like?

How would it function?

Would the students fall in love with it?

These were all questions that needed to be addressed.

**THE ONE THING THEY KNEW  
FOR CERTAIN WAS THAT CHANGE  
NEEDED TO OCCUR.**





# The Solution

The answer came by chance, as the daughter of an assistant superintendent took a tour of Inventionland, a one-of-a-kind facility where inventors' dreams become a reality. The idea of a creative and immersive environment translated well from the boardroom to the classroom.



The build went smoothly and without interruption over the summer of 2017. As students filed into the facility at the beginning of the school year, it was obvious that the change was for the better.

The space was dubbed the Creativity Innovation Research Center (CIRC). There was an immediate, immense rush of excitement and urgency by the students to get inside the space and begin working.



"I think my reaction was very similar to the students—awe and wonder," said Mr. Eric Fogle, the school's teacher. "The space is vastly different than the library space it was last school year. It was modeled and designed to stimulate creativity just like the Inventionland environment."

This is a standard issue for many schools, but also a solvable problem: Like technology and learning, facilities must be able to keep up with the times, so that students absorb the attributes necessary to become career-ready.

We have found that environment can lead to more collaboration and creativity among students. It allows students to immerse themselves in learning and take ownership of their education. Educators have marveled at student transformations and outcomes as a result of enhancing their educational environment.



The buzz surrounding a unique, creative space travels and gains excitement in the same way a snowball rolling downhill continues to grow. This, in turn, increases the communication and creativity of the staff and educators themselves. An area in high demand that is sought out will require scheduling, compromise and collaboration. It will also bring out the most in your students and reinvigorate the ideals of the teaching staff.

A cutting-edge space demands the same brand of curriculum. Because having the latest technologies like 3-D printers and laser cutters is useless if you don't know how to use them. Classes like the Inventionland Institute's Innovation Course guide students through the inventing process and turn classroom technology into vital tools and a part of the process, rather than a toy. The students at Haine used their new technology and green screen to create innovative new products that tested them along the way.

**IF YOUR SCHOOL WOULD NEVER DREAM OF INVESTING IN ITS ENVIRONMENT, THEN THE DREAMS OF YOUR STUDENTS MAY NEVER COME TRUE.**



# Conclusion

We are products of our environment in one way or another. Whether by nature or nurture, we pick up on our surroundings and adapt for the better.

PHOTO COURTESY OF INVENTIONLAND

What if we had the power to change that environment?

What if we could enhance creativity and change the trajectory of the culture around us?

What if companies like Inventionland are doing that right now through creative curriculum and space design?



Our environments continue to evolve as we become more innovative and creative. Corporations, private institutions and especially educational systems are realizing that positive and creative surroundings support engagement, motivation and so much more. Studies show that the right environment will produce more well-rounded people with the skills necessary to thrive today and the adaptability to be successful and productive well into the future.

We can sculpt our educational offerings to fit our dreams and desires, therefore making innovation, creativity and diligence an inherent trait in the educational system.

Nature or nurture? Here at Inventionland we have to ask—why not both?

**WHY NOT AN INNOVATION LAB  
IN EVERY SCHOOL?**



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immersive learning environment.



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