

SPRING 2023

# LEARNING BY DESIGN

THE PREMIER SOURCE FOR EDUCATION DESIGN INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

## Educational Facilities Design Awards

Upper Merion Area High School, King of Prussia, PA  
Photo: Halkin Mason Photography



COMBINED-LEVEL SCHOOL | NEW CONSTRUCTION/ADDITION |  
PROJECT-BASED LEARNING SPACES

## Berkshire Local Schools

Burton, OH

### Inventionland Education

585 Alpha Dr.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
InventionlandEducation.com  
Nathan Field, Principal Designer, Executive Director  
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### DESIGN TEAM

Nathan Field, Principal Design  
Clay Carlino, Director of New Innovations  
Michael Spicer, Project Engineer

### OWNER/CLIENT

Berkshire Local Schools  
Burton, OH  
John Stoddard, Superintendent

### KEY STATS

Grades Served: PreK-12  
Capacity of Students/Occupants: 1,360  
Size of Site: 25 acres  
Gross Area of Bldg./Space: 204,000 gsf  
Project Cost: \$51,000,000  
Occupation Date: 8/15/2022

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Inventionland Education worked with the \$51 million Berkshire Local Schools new PreK-12 campus project to create 13 immersive, age-appropriate maker spaces and Innovation Labs<sup>®</sup> as an integral part of their larger overall construction project. This includes Creativity Cabin locker cubbies for PreK and kindergarten students, Inventalot<sup>™</sup> Castles, with its own slide for first and second grade students, and Chipper's<sup>™</sup> Treehouse for third and fourth graders.

In addition, the team developed Discover<sup>™</sup> Pirate Ships for fifth and sixth grade maker spaces, Inventron<sup>™</sup> Robot spaces for seventh and eighth graders, and high school Innovation Labs<sup>®</sup> utilizing a Sci-fi/Space Fantasy theme, with modern wall art and dry-erase light panels.

According to Berkshire Local Schools Superintendent John Stoddard, "The concept behind the maker spaces and Innovation



Labs<sup>®</sup> tied in perfectly with our project-based learning approach. We want our learners to understand how the ideas we teach work, instead of just memorizing and repeating facts. And we want to inspire innovation, new thinking, and creativity through spaces, as well as concepts."

The team at Inventionland Education worked with Berkshire Local Schools to create these maker spaces where the project-

based learning approach comes alive in a unique environment. The immersive spaces are not just a facade. The outside areas are designed for student collaboration and brainstorming, while the inside is optimized as a maker space. This creates a room within a room without the need to put up solid walls.

Stoddard and Inventionland Education also believe the spaces will help to develop the skills that today's employers want, such



INTERIOR VIEW

EXTERIOR VIEW



RENDER

as teamwork, creative problem-solving, adaptability, and resourcefulness. The award-winning Innovation Labs® Design Services team at Inventionland Education works with schools, architects, and designers to create immersive learning environments that inspire creativity, whether it's a new school or reimagining old or underutilized existing spaces.