

After several trials on the classroom architect software I have concluded what I view my future classroom to look like. To give a short insight to my reasoning I have to mention that I have also taught in several room layouts before and they, for the most part, seem to be the traditional rectangle design. Therefore I chose a traditional rectangle layout for which I included several stations and areas throughout. The windows and doors to either the bathroom (if one is included) or to the exit of the classroom are always scattered throughout and I thought that if I would create a universal rectangular design I could also factor in those entries and exits without having to worry majorly about a change of layout.

I chose to set up my classroom in the following way to first and foremost have it resemble a comfortable home environment. I also chose to have several larger storage closets because I remember how many things can be accumulated in a classroom; in order for the classroom to appear clean I felt that those storage closets are a must.

I have placed my teacher desk in the front of the room besides the smart-board to be able to view my students, and to also have my desk computer closer to the smart-board in case I'd want to change something on the screen. My teacher desk will also serve as an individual conference station with students to be able to see how their progress is doing by having short one minute meetings.

I have placed two rugs in front of the smart-board (which really should resemble one large rectangular rug); this is where I plan to have introductory mini-lessons for chosen new subjects. I would let my students gather on the carpet, view the board or be able to listen to a short storybook that serves as an introduction.

The student desks are arranged in clusters; I intend to re-arrange my classroom at least once a month but will want to keep the cluster sections; this would work perfectly for group

projects or literacy stations during ELA, or during science experiments. The Vanderbilt IRIS modules explain several helpful strategies such as PALS that can be achieved with this kind of clustering setup. My reason for re-arranging the student desks on a monthly basis is because I feel that students get too comfortable with their surroundings and are more prone to chat with their neighbors. I believe that with the constant re-arrangement students will focus more on the schoolwork instead of their new neighbor which they might not have started to get to know yet as they know they will soon be sitting somewhere new. These stations can also perfectly work for math lessons. I also believe that it's essential for students to be able to move around the classroom and to have a new scenery every once in a while when they are not able to move around the classroom for moments. Some of the students' desks are stationed in a row; I will use those for students who need or want to individually work on tasks.

I have included a library with shelving in the back left corner of the classroom; I believe that a library corner is essential for my future students, and I have had a German library in my previous classrooms as well. Students seem to absolutely love being able to step back, relax, and research a book or to just read. I can incorporate this in my classroom management which would be considered a sort of positive reinforcement; students could achieve free time after having finished a certain task or by achieving a set goal. I can also use the library for ELA book projects and read storybooks that provide awareness which I believe is essential in targeting bullying, etc.

I decided not to create a station with a sink because the attached bathrooms usually have the sink inside. Otherwise I would put the sink next to the bathroom entry (if there is one) so students can wash hands immediately after they exit the bathroom. In most classrooms the sink

is also built in in a kitchenette (however this option was not available in the classroom architect software).

I have also included a small section for desks with computers so students are able to do research for a project, to take AR tests (accelerated readers), and to create digital projects with their group. I have learned that several schools are adapting to letting students be able to have individual tablets within the classroom to enhance their knowledge of technology and to not have to rely on only a few desktops in the classroom.

The last station I wanted to focus on is located on the left side of the classroom. It is to serve students as an 'elaboration station' to reflect/elaborate on previously learned information and to draw further discussions from it.

On a different note, I absolutely love sunlight and I dislike the bright classroom fluorescent lighting. In my future classroom I will eliminate most of the fluorescent lighting and will station several funky and bright decorated lamps throughout the classroom that have a dimmer. I will also make sure that my (hopeful) window will not be blocked with blinds; I want students to feel the warm sun shining through the window, and have the natural light available. I also would like to incorporate seasonal lighting into my classroom such as Christmas lights and orange bulb Halloween lights.

The color scheme will be created according to what the school theme is in combination with the seasonal times of the year. I have to also take into account to keep the room in neutral colors and not have them be too dull or too bright as this can affect students learning.

To reflect on how I might handle a less than ideal classroom setting given fixed parameters, I would perhaps do the same setup only in a downscaled arrangement. I have definitely seen way smaller classrooms, and I believe the key factor in this is that the teacher has

to be smart about the arrangement and the size of the stations. If I would not have all the space, then I would have to scale back the size of the stations but regardless I would not eliminate any stations; more so I perhaps would create two-in-one stations to accommodate for the space.