

**1. Project Name:** 21<sup>st</sup> Century Elementary School Media Center

**2. Project Number:** 1

**3. Campus Name:** Jackson Elementary

**4. Project Description:**

Our school is proposing the development of a state of the art media center that will provide a technology focused, hands-on, multi-disciplinary learning environment. The primary goal of developing this common area will be to provide students with a multi-media learning "hub" that will align with the Cedar Rapids Community School District's mission of developing 21st century learners. A reconfiguration of the current space will allow for the consideration of 4 focus areas: Wireless computer/iPad capacity, a small group work area, a "living room" style reading nook and an individual student work space. The center will provide resources that will expand and enhance student learning beyond the textbook while supporting the literacy and informational needs of the school community. The media center would also serve the needs of the community by providing computer access as well as a space for small groups/organizations to meet.

**5. Project Objectives:**

The goal of the project is to provide students with a more "kid friendly" 21st century designed common area that will support and enhance their academic growth. The 4 focus areas are outlined in further detail below.

1. Wireless access -Laptop computers, - iPads and wireless printers available - Touch screen tabletops - Digital book collection (Accessible all hours, on weekends and holidays from anywhere in the world) - Self check out system.
2. Small group work area -Conference size tables - Interactive white board - Mobile seating.
3. Reading Nook - Comfortable seating (Upholstered chairs, loveseat, benches, etc.) - Digital wall (TV that will scroll announcements and student designed images) - Student art gallery (Area to display student art work) - Small performance area/mini stage - Natural lighting (Windows or sliding glass doors) - Outdoor reading veranda
4. Individual student work space - Student size tables and chairs - Individual study carrels - Touch screen tabletops - Access to laptops, iPads, printers and headphones.

## **6. General Information:**

Other areas for consideration would include: Replacement of all shelving (Wood grain, student height, mobile). Arrangement of the media center utilizing a bookstore model (Grouping books by category). Addition of a dropped ceiling for acoustical upgrade and improved energy efficiency. Upgraded lighting (From reflective to direct lighting) \*Addition of natural lighting in the book nook area. Improved media specialist desk area and arrangement for more functionality. Redesign or remove student lockers that are located in the current media area. Addition of storage units around the perimeter of the media area. Acquisition of a set of iPads for each classroom to eliminate the need for a group computer lab area.

## **7. Summary:**

A 21st century media center will help prepare students for the diverse work force that they will enter in the future. The skills that they will develop and enhance through the use of a state of the art multi media center will assist in developing productive citizens and world class learners. The vision for this space supports not only the school district strategic plan, mission, vision and goals for all students it also aligns with the goals of the Iowa Core Curriculum.

## **8. Project Outcomes:**

Students will have access to a work space that will encourage the spirit of inquiry and promote the use of technology and the development of 21st century skills. The space will also provide options for increasing community partnerships by allowing access to computers and space for community organizations to gather.