



INTRODUCING THE HUB AND THE T AT HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL BY MOLLY LOUCKS

SPACES RECEIVE FACELIFT TO CREATE FLEXIBLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Walking the halls of Homestead High School, it is common to see groups of students using the space beyond their classrooms to work individually or in groups on problems or prompts taped to the walls or written in glass marker on the windows. In modern approaches to learning and instruction, education is no longer confined to four walls with rows of desks. In this changing approach, students and teachers are mobile and are able to flexibly transition between large group instruction, individual work time, and small group collaborations. While the concept of modern learning may not be new to Homestead, dedicated space to foster this active collaboration can be hard to come by.

Thanks in part to a grant from the Mequon-Thiensville Education Foundation (MTEF), two of the most frequently used makeshift workspaces in Homestead were transformed this summer into true collaborative areas, ideal for student engagement and learning in motion. *Welcome to The Hub and The T.*

The Hub refers to the common area at Homestead at a four-way intersection of hallways, located at the heart of the campus. In addition to a fresh coat of paint, removal of unnecessary lockers, and updated tile work across the open span of intersecting hallways, The Hub is now home to 22 permanent white boards and nine mobile tables that can be easily moved and configured in the space as needed.

The T is the common area at an intersection of hallways on the east side of the building. It has been given a similar update and fitted with eight new white boards, perfect for student collaboration. Grace Edwards and Lola Wojcik, sophomores in Jennifer Zortman's Algebra 2 class, both agree that the ability to access flexible learning environments is effective, especially during the extended periods that make up Homestead's block schedule.

"It's easier to learn when we're working with other people and we're up and moving around," says Edwards.

Because they are the users of these spaces, students were intentionally involved in the design of The Hub and The T. Last year, Kat Hustedde's Digital Art 2 class was commissioned to create logos for both spaces – with the principal as a client – to gain real-world design experience. Current senior Katie Dulle submitted designs that were selected as the best fit for both the spaces and the vision. James Valentino, class of 2019, worked to create the compass design that is featured in The Hub logo and is the inspiration for the tile work on the floor of the common space.

“Designing the floor for The Hub was a lot of fun,” shares Valentino, who is now a freshman at UW-Stout studying game design. “It’s really humbling that I had an opportunity to do something that will be an everyday sight for Homestead students for a really long time.”

The Hub was fully funded through an MTEF grant. The T was a gift from the MTEF Leave A Legacy campaign, which is collected annually from donors honoring the current graduating class.

“The Foundation is pleased to support modern learning environments, such as The Hub and The T, to facilitate inquiry-based learning and collaboration in our schools,” says MTEF President Cindy Anderson.

“The renovations of these learning spaces at Homestead complement the Inquiry and Collaboration Centers (ICCs) at all six MTSD schools,” explains Matthew Joynt, superintendent of schools. “We are excited to continue to foster and grow diverse learning opportunities across the Mequon-Thiensville School District.”

The T is the common area at an intersection of hallways on the east side of the high school building. The space has been fitted with eight new white boards, perfect for student collaboration.



Students in Kat Hustedde's Digital Art 2 class were commissioned to create logos for The Hub and The T.

