

5 Things To Consider Before You Build Your Makerspace

For educators planning a new makerspace, often the first step is to purchase all the amazing tools you can. While that's tempting, there are a few steps we recommend you explore first.

Take On A Maker Mindset

Try incorporating design thinking and collaborative problem solving in your makerspace lesson plans. When done with a hands-on curriculum it fosters not only mastery of the tools, but creative confidence, problem solving skills and learning resilience.

Looking For Makerspace Lesson Plan Resources?

Some places to start to learn about developing maker projects and skills are: [Maker Ed](#), [A Year in the Making](#), or [Instructables](#). These websites offer useful ideas for projects and tools to use in your makerspace.

Gather A Team And Get Feedback

Think through with stakeholders what elements you want to include. Make sure to think through how students will use the space and what they will learn. Below are a few examples of standard makerspace items:

- design
- soldering
- electronics
- 3D printing
- cutting and engraving
- building/hand tools
- robotics
- wood and metal working
- sewing/textiles
- programmable computing
- and, of course, imagination!

Review School District Age Range and Safety Requirements

Every school district has a different set of safety rules based on age range. For example, one makerspace leader purchased a sewing machine and supplies only to find afterwards their school requires a 1-1 adult to student ratio for any needles or cutting tools. Check with your school for guidelines before you make final purchases.

Integration, Integration, Integration

One of the most common things we see is siloing of the maker tools. Determine how to incorporate your makerspace into curriculum in every classroom. Encourage your students in every class to express their learning through projects.

