



**ACTIVE LEARNING CENTER OVERVIEW**  
**GRANT PROPOSAL**

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION: Oak Grove Middle School, Mt. Diablo Unified School District, Concord, California

Grades 6 – 8     

PRIMARY CONTACT: Christina Filios, Principal, Oak Grove Middle School, and Ken Balderama, Science Department Chair and Lead Teacher for the Space

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**Classroom description** Describe the classroom you will designate for the Steelcase Education Active Learning Center:

Number of students 24 168 daily Grade level 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Room length 51ft 4 in Room width 40 ft Room height 12+ ft

- Active Learning Classroom 4**  
Static makerspace supports ideation and creativity

**Classroom Description:** The planned space for the Active Learning Center, currently referred to as F-5, is a large open space that provides 85 square feet per student and allows for multiple configurations that can support individual quiet spaces with small group and larger group collaborative learning simultaneously. Several steps will be taken to transform this space to its new intended use as a Discovery & Exploration space where students develop skills and passions related to how Next Generation science standards and Design Thinking can impact humanity.

**Philosophy:** Our pedagogical design is intentionally aimed at two broad outcomes:

1. capturing students' hearts and minds to build excitement for science and science careers from the moment they arrive on our campus
2. building a strong foundational and conceptual understanding of the scientific thinking and 21st century skills required in modern science and a desire to use science to make a difference. We identify 21st century skills as: CURIOSITY, COLLABORATION, CREATIVITY, CRITICAL THINKING, COMMUNICATION, and CONTRIBUTION.

**Expected Impact:** Our driving reason for moving to ACTIVE LEARNING AT HIGH LEVELS is to *shape the interest and ability* of our students to obtain STEM skills and INNOVATION skills that will propel them to viable jobs in the future. Reconfiguring space IS a lever to increase deeper learning. The space itself will spark new pedagogy as the teacher becomes a coach/facilitator who serves as a catalyst for unlocking natural curiosity and a desire to learn. Our space also includes two sizable rooms on each side of the main room that will become a Video/Audio Production room and a Digital Conferencing room where students collaborate with students and professionals from around the globe.

**Budget:** The grant is for \$62,000. Funds will pay for the classroom furniture and equipment to transform classrooms into an Active Learning Center.