



# Innovative design

## promotes collaborative learning environments: STEAM Innovation Lab at Penn Manor High School

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Penn Manor School District and the design team at Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates held several educational programming meetings regarding the renovations for Penn Manor High School. From the beginning, collaboration between departments was one of the guiding principles that helped shape the proposed new learning environment. Lack of department adjacencies in the existing high school structure was the driving factor to changing the way departments will interact. In Phase 1 of the three phases of the renovations and additions project, which is scheduled to be completed this year, the STEAM “collision zone” is a key component linking several sections.

The new innovation lab can be accessed from the science, technology, math, agriculture and art departments. This 3,600-square-foot area is directly adjacent to the science, business and technology labs that have overhead garage doors that open to expand the teaching environment beyond the typical lab or classroom. The collision zone can be used for small-group breakout areas and project-based learning. It also provides a large space for various related experiments and measurements. The opportunity to foster collaboration between departments is strengthened with faculty planning centers on both floors to assist students throughout the day.

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Within the collision zone, there is a learning stair that connects first and second floors for program connectivity as well as for small or large-scale presentation spaces within the collaborative space. Direct access to this presentation space will allow multiple departments to team teach and work in partnership on various class assignments as well as develop presentation skills that students may encounter at the college level or the work environment.



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