



A MooreCo Render to Reality™ Success Story

Port Neches-Groves ISD: A Community Bond

It was five years in the making, but the results are four stunning, new primary and intermediate schools for the tight-knit communities of Groves and Port Neches, Texas. Thanks to the visionary efforts of the district, staff, teachers, and community, the newly built schools emerged as beacons of modernity, innovation, and community spirit.

For over seven decades, the community thrived with seven smaller schools, steeped in tradition and history. However, as the needs of education evolved, it became evident that change was essential. The consolidation into four larger, modernized campuses not only streamlined resources but also laid the groundwork for a brighter future for generations to come.

The priorities of the district included maximum flexibility and adaptability to give teachers the tools they need to provide inclusive learning spaces for all students no matter their abilities or learning styles. Technology is vital for 21st-century learners, however, district leaders value purposefully technology in conjunction with experiential, collaborative learning.

They wanted the entire campus—not just classrooms—to foster communication and cooperation to sharpen both soft and hard skills. Finally, because of the community's investment, the leaders understood they had a responsibility to make smart choices with their bond funds to maximize the longevity of the new campuses.

MooreCo shares a similar mission regarding the developmental needs of young learners and immediately saw a tremendous opportunity to bring Port Neches-Groves ISD's vision to life. "MooreCo spent the time to get to know us. It wasn't a rushed process," Deputy Superintendent Julie Gauthier explains. Using the design principles that underline our Thrive Philosophy, MooreCo and Port Neches-Groves ISD created spaces where all students have the tools they need to learn, grow, achieve, and find community.

What sets these newly built schools apart is the meticulous attention to detail in every aspect of their design, down to the furniture. While there wasn't much opportunity for staff and teachers to contribute

to the physical design of the building, “furniture was the place to show our personality,” says Ms. Gauthier. Teachers felt empowered to contribute to the decision-making process, infusing their classrooms with individualism and purpose.

The MooreCo design team didn't just provide options for desks and chairs; they crafted classrooms, art rooms, science and computer labs, cafeterias, media centers, teacher's lounges, and comfortable living rooms that foster creativity, innovation, and inclusivity. Each space was tailored to evoke a specific atmosphere, igniting the imaginations of young learners.

“When you go in the art room, the tables feel different. They were made for art. When you go in the science lab, it feels different. For our students, furniture can make them feel like an artist or like a scientist,” explains Ms. Gauthier.

The new campuses allowed the district to provide a dedicated art space and instructor for the first time in its history. Outfitted with [Compass Makerspace Tables](#) with butcher block tops and pegboard side panels for handy storage; [Lab Stools](#); and customizable [Compass Cabinets](#) to neatly store supplies, the art room is a blank canvas for the creative minds of young learners. Other experiential learning spaces like computer labs and science labs are equipped with easily configurable furnishings, providing teachers with endless opportunities to tailor-fit their space to their needs.

The design team chose a cheerful, primary color palette to brightened up the campuses with mobile, adaptable furniture and soft seating. Virtually every corner of the school can now be used as a collaborative hive for generating ideas. One of the most remarkable features is the flexibility of the classrooms. With movable furniture, teachers have the option to reconfigure the classroom quickly and easily according to their learning objectives. This adaptability mirrors the dynamic nature of education itself, empowering students to thrive in an ever-changing world.

[Hierarchy Creator Desks + Porcelain Steel Tops](#) with casters and [Hierarchy 4-Leg Chairs](#) outfit every classroom and give each student a clean slate to jot down notes, doodle, and create. On the older campuses, teachers retrofitted their classroom for active learning by pushing heavy, loud tables together, their edges never truly meeting to create a large work surface. Easy mobility and flexibility to foster collaboration were top priorities for Port Neches-Groves ISD. “We have to be very purposeful as educators to create thinkers, learners, and problem solvers. If we can do those two things, the sky is the limit.”

Living rooms and communal areas give students ample ergonomic choices to find their ideal work or

recharge station. [Hierarchy Beluga Desks](#) with height-adjustable [Hierarchy Grow Stools®](#) and [Hierarchy 4-Leg Chairs](#) give students freedom to configure their own collaborative space. [Beanies](#) in different shapes and sizes provide comfy zones to socialize and rest their minds and bodies. Students can activate spaces and configure their own space with mobile soft seating clusters with curved [Variable Height Ottomans](#) and [Blossom Ottomans](#).

Despite facing five-year long challenges including Covid, supply issues, and inflation, MooreCo remained steadfast in their commitment to the district. Ms. Gauthier explained that in the highly collaborative design process, “MooreCo listened to everything we wanted, then figured out how to make it happen.”

As the results of this collaboration unfold, the excitement is palpable. From the blossoming creativity in the classrooms to the newfound comfort of living rooms and teacher planning spaces, every corner of the schools radiates with possibility.

For more information on MooreCo's design and space planning services, please visit moorecoinc.com/contract









