# SETTING UP YOUR CLASSROOM FURNITURE



## Believe it or not, furniture layout can effect behavior!

Classroom management issues can be addressed PROACTIVELY by ensuring a functional set up.

Focus on structure, order, routines and procedures at the start of the school year.

It is easier to become less structured than it is to become structured.





## Furniture: Focus on flow, functionality and structure!

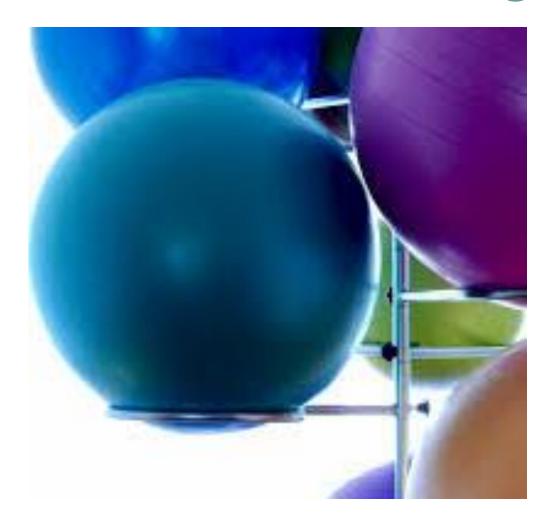
- Think about:
  - How many students will I have?
  - Do I have enough desks/tables?
  - What configuration will be most successful from day one?
  - What processes and routines do you have in your classroom and does your layout allow for easy completion of those expectations?
- Plan the space on paper!



www.smithsystem.com



#### Furniture: Things to Consider



- Does your layout allow for movement between desks/tables?
- Can desks be easily grouped for collaboration?
- Where will you do "whole class instruction?"
- Can you monitor all students at all times no matter where you are in the classroom?
- Do you need or want flexible seating options? (i.e. stand up desks, balls, couches)
- What role does technology play in your classroom and how do you create space for it?



#### A few more ideas...

- Consider students with special needs
- Create distinct areas (class library, whole group area, break/calming space, etc.)
- Add personal touches
- Keep supplies within reach
- Keep high traffic areas open (i.e. pencil sharpener)
- Consider storage needs (for your students and you)
- Make sure electrical outlets are easily accessible
- Ensure a safe route out of the classroom for fire drills, etc.





### Other innovative thoughts...

- 35 Cheap and Ingenious
   Ways to Have the Best
   Classroom Ever
- Classroom Remix: 9 Pieces of Furniture That Will Change the Way Your Students Learn
- And...as always...check out Pinterest
- Ask parents and community for donations (double check your policies first)











#### **Examples-Elementary**















#### Examples-Middle School











#### Examples-High School













www.LearnersEdgeInc.com

## Examples-Self Contained Special Education



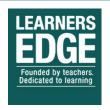








#### Examples-Resource Room, Small Group













An Easy Guide to Setting Up Your K-5 Classroom [Web log post]. Retrieved May 27, 2017, from <a href="https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/easy-guide-setting-your-grade-k-5-classroom/">https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/easy-guide-setting-your-grade-k-5-classroom/</a>

Lewis, B. (2016, November 3). How to Set Up Your Classroom For the First Day of School [Web log post]. Retrieved May 27, 2017, from <a href="https://www.thoughtco.com/how-to-set-up-your-classroom-for-the-first-day-of-school-2081586">https://www.thoughtco.com/how-to-set-up-your-classroom-for-the-first-day-of-school-2081586</a>

Whitaker, T., Whitaker, M., & Whitaker, K. (2016). *Your first year: how to survive and thrive as a new teacher*. New York, NY: Routledge.