

Exploring the Accentuated Learning Environments featuring the **JUST RIGHT ZONE** for every learner.

The new Accentuated Learning Environment (ALE) classroom designed by Accent is a vision started by their senior sales lead Russell Evans. This brand new classroom design was pursued with the determination and commitment “to get it right”. Via the gracious feedback and positive encouragement from their teaching professional clients, Russell and his team at Accent developed the classroom environment that’s got the industry talking.

Accentuated Learning Environments have been designed to help educators:

- Close the achievement gap
- Enhance student focus and engagement
- Correct negative behaviour
- Facilitate more inclusivity within the classroom

Submitted by: Bailey Englot

Picture a traditional classroom: desks in neat rows with a uniform chair at each. Now instead of those desks, picture a variety of tables, some able to seat one, others two, four or even six. Some of these tables are able to “tessellate” together to create larger work surfaces and other tables are raised for learners who prefer to stand while working. There are several private carrels and a sofa, too. In place of those uniform chairs is a variety of seating options: Zuma rockers, Hokki stools, tall chairs on wheels intended to be a sort of “perch” for those utilizing the standing surfaces, and then some ordinary four-on-the-floor chairs, too. Rather than the standard teacher’s desk tucked in a corner, there is a desk whose top is a large curved table at which several students can be seated for small group instruction.



School: Samuel Burland School - Louis Riel School Division

Location: Winnipeg, MB



“This new Accentuated Learning Environment philosophy is set up to nurture *individual learners’ needs and preferences*; something that is always worth the effort!”

- Bailey Englot, Teacher



Report from Bailey Englot – Samuel Burland Schol Con't

Our school was fortunate enough to be chosen to pilot a project called the Balanced Learning Environment (recently retitled to Accentuated Learning Environment), and I am fortunate enough to be one of the classroom teachers piloting it. Partnering with Accent Furniture, three classrooms received unique makeovers that include brand new, state-of-the-art seating and tables. The classroom space is meant to be manipulated in order to accommodate the learning experiences of the moment, which is why the tables are equipped with wheels that allow for quiet, effortless movement when needed, and helpful locks when they are to stay in one place. Students move to seating and surfaces that meet their physical and learning needs depending on the activity and the time of day. The furnishings are colourful and comfortable.

Some might wonder why a teacher would want such an unusual mix of furnishings, but ponder for a moment the fact that teachers regularly adapt their learning environments to meet particular student needs. This simply validates and formalizes the process. Thus the foundational goal of the Accentuated Learning Environment: To create “dynamic learning environments” that take into consideration students’ preferred learning styles, strengths, as well as their personalities (Martin 1). Furthermore, the environment is structured in a flexible way that allows students to learn as naturally and as comfortably as possible. Those who benefit from collaboration have that option and students who benefit from the opportunity to stand and move about without creating a distraction for those who need focused, individual space with fewer distractions can each do so. The classroom is designed to provide multiple optional spaces to accommodate different learning preferences as well as physical and social needs, and recognizes that these preferences and needs are never static.

Our classroom looks like fun and it is fun to use. In fact, it is so much fun that we needed specific time to try out each piece of furniture over the first few weeks of the school year in order to know what it would feel like to learn in each space. Students began to identify what seating options worked best for them and what surfaces felt the most

comfortable to work at, depending on the task at hand. We are now getting to a point where the environment is less of a novelty and more our normal working environment. As a class we have outlined benefits of each piece of furniture as well as important safety procedures to follow when using each seating option. This helps students to be accountable and to reflect honestly about their choices.

This is a new situation for both the students and me, and something that we are all still getting used to, but every day I see students settling into different places in our classroom, using the space to its fullest. Many students, as well as visiting adults, have affirmed that the classroom “feels like home” in the sense that the environment is pleasant, open, and comfortable, and students have the freedom to move as needed. This new Accentuated Learning Environment philosophy is set up to nurture individual learners’ needs and preferences; something that is always worth the effort. We have many and varied learning experiences planned for the upcoming months, and the students and I are looking forward to taking full advantage of the refreshing options that the Accentuated Learning Environment provides.





School: River West Park School
Project: New Accentuated Learning Environment



School: Steinbach Regional Secondary School
Project: New Learning Commons



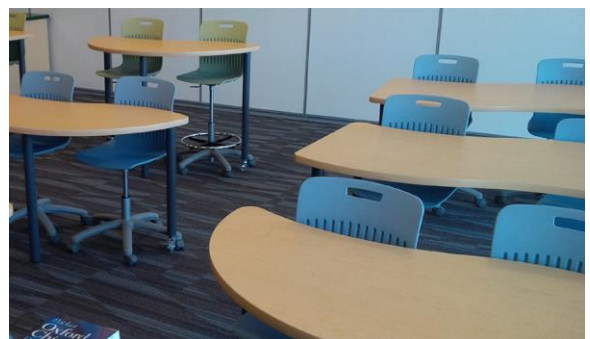
School: Gilbert Plains
Project: Accentuated Learning Environment



School: Ryerson Elementary
Project: New Accentuated Learning Environment



School: École George-McDowell
Project: Accentuated Learning Environment



School: St. John's Ravenscourt
Project: New Accentuated Learning Environment

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