

NE Lab Provides Casework to Clay Science Center Classroom Labs

By Randy Weyler, Engineering/IT Manager and Woody Kemp, Account Representative New England Laboratories

Brookline, MA - New England Laboratory Casework Co., Inc. was proud to be involved in the construction of the new Clay Center at the Dexter School for boys. Our scope included the lab furniture in the two new science classrooms. The classrooms were primarily designed for Biology and Chemistry but are versatile enough to be used for any scientific study. As part of the design team working alongside the architects, we were able to solve specific problems and meet certain needs.

One of the main concerns was flexibility. The labs were divided into two areas, a standing height work area, and a sitting height work area. The sitting height area is designed for classroom lectures, but can also be used for experiments. All of the lecture tables were designed with fittings for temporary apparatus set up. The standing height area also has these fittings, as well as natural gas, electrical, and data fixtures that are accessible from all sides of the octagonal benches. Another way that flexibility was built into the labs was to create mobile storage cabinets. By moving these large benches, the lab layout can instantly change, creating larger open floor space to accommodate larger student workgroups. Each lab has a workstation that meets the requirements for the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Another area for concern was for in-



(Above) Chemistry Lab (right) Clay Science Center

dividualized storage space for each student. The cabinets were designed to allow each student storage space for his project, typically stored in a plastic bin with his name on it. The mobile carts store all of the student bins, and the base cabinets store microscopes and other student tools. Two large cabinets with narrow height drawers allow flat storage of large maps, charts of the solar system, or other poster-sized material.

A wall mounted goggles cabinet features a sanitizing lamp, and stores safety glasses for every student.

Each lab has a large low height stainless steel sink where students can fill containers with water, hydrate plants, or just clean up. Other equipment supplied by New England Lab were an under-counter refrigerator, a glass washer, barrier free emergency eyewash/

shower fixtures and a chemical fume hood complete with demonstration window on one side.

The product chosen to fit out this space was our Concord Series Casework. This premium cabinet features a vertically matched plain sliced maple veneer with traditional top frame construction as well as dovetailed drawer body for that classic cabinet look. The drawers are full extension to allow easy access to the entire storage space.

The highlight of the space is the large run of casework that is designed along a fifty foot curved wall. The dramatic curve is based on two different ellipses that result in a gradual increase in depth at the middle of the bench. A curtain wall at the center of the curve divides the space when privacy is required.



Cabinets curve along the same lines as the exterior of the building



Large low height stainless steel sink

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