

# Rockford Public Schools



## Vision Statement

To create an integrated learning environment that provides students active learning experiences that are student centered and interactive. Time is spent with hands on activities, driving questions and simulations that take students deeper into the content, problem solving and inquiry learning. This environment is highly collaborative where small groups of students work in teams to investigate, communicate, develop and learn.

# CREATIVE TEACHING & LEARNING CENTER

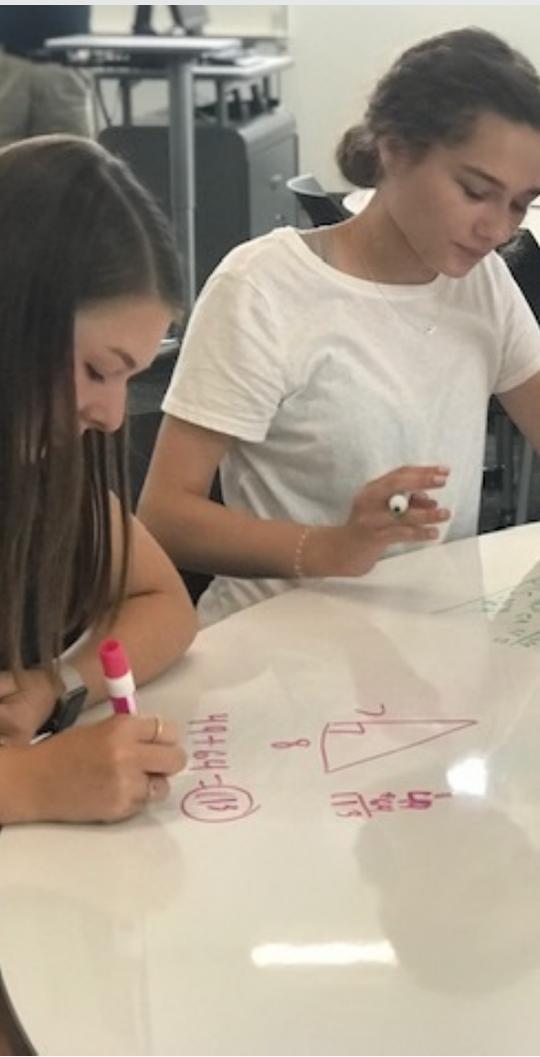


## SCALE-UP Classroom

"We promote active learning in redesigned classrooms for 100 students or more. The spaces are carefully designed to facilitate interactions between teams of students who work on short, interesting tasks. A decade of research indicates significant improvements in learning.

The name really says it all. SCALE-UP stands for "Student-Centered Active Learning Environment with Upside-down Pedagogies." The basic idea is that you give students something interesting to investigate. While they work in teams, the instructor is free to roam around the classroom--asking questions, sending one team to help another, or asking why someone else got a different answer. There is no separate lab class and most of the "lectures" are actually class-wide discussions. We carefully structure the groups and give them many opportunities to interact. Three teams (named a, b, and c) sit at a round table and have white boards nearby. Each team has a laptop in case they need web access."

\*North Carolina State University, Dr. Robert Beichner, creator of the SCALE UP model



## Rockford Schools and the Community

The Creative Teaching and Learning Center is used by teachers and students during the day but open for use after school. Please contact RPS Community Education if you are interested in reserving this space for a meeting or other function.

# LOUNGE

- Flexible/Adaptable Space
- High top tables and chairs
- Tile flooring for variety of activities
- Catering area
- Separate door for catering



# LAB

- Designed for collaboration and active learning
- Fixed tables and chairs on wheels
- Groups of 9 students and students in groups of 3 at each table (white board surface)
- Each group has a large monitor, large whiteboard, small huddle boards
- Technology connections and microphones at each table
- Teacher lecterns, computer, iPad Pro, microphones, document camera, Crestron controls



# LOBBY

- Entrance to the center
- Flexible space with variety of furniture styles and arrangements for collaboration
- Bathrooms
- Two monitors for announcements



## Designed to Impact Instruction

The Creative Teaching and Learning Center mimics the world of work. The spaces within the center provide opportunities for students to embed 21st Century skills into their learning. Dr. Robert Beichner from North Carolina State University stated that the reason that the SCALE-UP classroom works is that the "social interactions between students and with their teachers appears to be the "active ingredient". Through Dr. Beichner's research, he summarized the impact on student learning by their increased ability to solve problems, increased conceptual understanding of content, better attitudes, decrease failure rate and "at risk" students perform better in later courses.

Years of research have gone into the room design, furniture selection, alternative learning spaces, grouping of teams and technology. Rockford has modeled the Creative Teaching and Learning Center after Dr. Beichner's work and has met with him to better understand the instructional practices and design of the curriculum to bring those strategies and pedagogies of engagement to Rockford.

## Fall 2019 Courses

Bob Wells  
Honors Algebra 2

Rick Laven  
Computer Science Principles 1

Shelby Denhof and Steve Story  
English 11

Hope Keating and Stephanie Campbell  
Health and Wellness



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