

## **A makerspace is a place where students make “meaning.”**

Makerspaces come in all shapes and sizes with (everything AND the kitchen sink): tools, technology, arts and crafts materials and more to spark innovation, creativity, inventing, exploring, entrepreneurship, critical thinking, problem-solving and mentoring.

As you're planning your makerspace think about what you are trying to accomplish, how it will be used, where it will be located and how it will integrate with your school. Here are some questions to help guide your discussions and, ultimately, the best ways to set up your makerspace.

What is the focus of the space?

- Exercising creativity?
- Kinesthetically focused?
- Crafts/DIY?
- Building/repair/de-constructing?
- Engineering?
- STEM/STEAM?
- Robotics?
- Other?

How will the space be used?

- Is it part of classroom space? Swing space? Other?
- Will it be used regularly, as part of the curriculum? After school or “free time”?
- Does it need to be mobile? (move from space to space)
- Will it be used for intensive, short-time projects or longer-term, in-depth projects?

What tools will be used in the space?

- Supplies (art supplies, industrial tools)
- Technology (computers, iPad, 3D printer, wi-fi)
- Equipment (hand tools, small electrics, hardware)
- Elements (LEGOs®, robotics pieces, K'NEX®)

Do you have storage requirements for tools, supplies?

- Do they need to be locked up?
- Is anything heavy/delicate/hard to move?

Do you have power/wiring needs?

- Do you need power?
- A place for recharging tools/equipment?