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## **Mequon-Thiensville Schools to See Makeover of Learning Environments** Elementary IMCs and High School STEM Lab to be Upgraded this Summer

MEQUON, WI. — This summer, construction crews and Mequon-Thiensville School District staff will be hard at work creating new, state-of-the-art student-centered learning environments.

“Collaborative learning environments are critical to achieving our goal and our commitment as an organization to maximize each student’s academic achievement and personal growth,” said Demond Means, Ed.D., superintendent of schools. To meet that goal, the following projects will be completed the summer of 2017:

- Innovative and collaborative learning spaces are being created in the Donges Bay, Oriole Lane and Wilson elementary school Instructional Media Centers (IMCs).
- A cutting-edge Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Lab will be created at Homestead High School.

The new elementary school spaces, which will be referred to as Inquiry and Collaboration Centers (ICCs) are designed with 21<sup>st</sup> century learning in mind. The ICCs will provide books, digital resources and ample space to allow small or large groups to gather in a central space and collaborate on projects. Current facilities do not offer this level of flexibility.

The Homestead STEM Lab will be used for science, technology, engineering and math projects. The innovative and well-equipped space will also provide flexibility in terms of how collaborative groups or individuals can access the tools within the learning environment.

The Mequon-Thiensville Board of Education unanimously voted to move forward with the projects on March 20, paying an approximate \$1.8 million from the district’s fund balance. “As a board, we spend money wisely,” said Board Member Wendy Francour. “I think this is good for kids, it’s good for our staff and it’s good for education.”

Architectural and planning work for the projects is currently underway. Construction will start when summer vacation begins, with projects wrapping up mid-August.

Visit [www.mtsd.k12.wi.us/construction](http://www.mtsd.k12.wi.us/construction) to see architectural renderings.

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