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BY MOORECO

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## Glenbrook North High School: An Uncommon Space

When designing common areas for students to gather, MooreCo's space planning team consciously considers the developmental needs of the students who will inhabit that space. MooreCo's Thrive Philosophy looks at each human development principle to ensure that each student may thrive in their learning environment. When designing a resource center for [Glenbrook North High School](#), Molly Cox and Kim Diaz used pieces that simultaneously encourage collaboration and independence. We've learned through our research with experts in the field of [adolescent psychology](#) that this balance between shared and individual learning is what helps teens succeed academically and emotionally. That's why the space planning team at MooreCo focuses on flexible environments, especially in gathering spaces like this one.

To create spaces that facilitate sharing, Molly and Kim began with the [Cocoon Community Tables](#). Named for the transformation pod that takes place as a caterpillar turns into a butterfly, this table was created with adolescent development in mind. As the transition from childhood to adulthood takes place,

it's important to give students the space to share ideas and work together on projects. This encourages not only socialization, but also the development of soft skills and leadership abilities. This versatile set of sturdy tables and benches with large surface areas is perfectly suited for team collaboration. For flexible seating options, the [Seed 5-Star Stools](#) were placed across from the upholstered [bar height stools](#) in lively Key Largo Jonquil Fabric.

Dr. Jessica Church-Lang is head of Austin Neuroimaging at the University of Texas Learning Disabilities Research Center. She has [collaborated with the MooreCo team](#) with her expertise. She says that adolescent students do best when they are provided with multiple choices for where they can work, learn, and socialize. Molly and Kim provided multi-level seating throughout the resource center. Providing bistro-style seating are the 48" round [Hierarchy Activity Tables](#), paired with [Seed stools](#). The 36" [Frequency X-Base Tables](#) are paired with the [Seed chairs](#), to switch up seating heights and choices for student comfort. The [Height Adjustable Flipper Tables](#) were also placed throughout the room in two

separate heights in both the center of the room and on the wall. These mobile tables can be easily moved to create additional floor spaces for active learning or presentations.

For more restful lounge spaces, Molly and Kim used the [Lounge Chairs with Arms](#) with Archer Daybreak and Key Largo Jonquil Fabric. Bright pops of orange and playful patterns create an atmosphere that feels like the lounge of a workplace or collegiate space. Once again emphasizing our Thrive philosophy where we are supporting students transition into higher ed and workplace. The soft seating areas contrast the durable tables, providing ample space for reading, studying, or taking a break. The combination of lounge and workstations throughout the space allows students to make choices about how they work best. This can lead to enhanced focus, confidence, and comfort for all students using the space.

The [DOC Mobile Divider](#) is placed in the center of the room to act as a partition and visual communication tool. Easily movable to any part of the room, the DOC partitions allow users to divide, organize, and customize a work or display area however they choose. This is excellent for teen brain development, when neuroplasticity is at a high, along with the need to be accepted by peers. Whiteboards allow scholars to share ideas and thoughts with each other, providing a mode of self-expression. The divider is also large enough to provide space for privacy and enhanced focus during test-taking or study periods.

In addition to providing workspaces where students can concentrate and rest, any modern

learning space must accommodate technology so that students may be powered to learn and work for long periods of time without distraction. The [MoorePower™ Towers](#) are placed in the resource center so that laptops, tablets, and phones can be charged easily. Each tower is fully mobile on smooth gliding casters, permitting users to move them throughout the room where they are needed most. This eliminates the need to be near a wall for charging and allows multiple students to power up at one time, making it easy for projects to be accomplished without interruption.

The students at Glenbrook North High School will be well prepared for the future with the excellent faculty and facilities they will rely on throughout their time in school. Molly and Kim made sure to create a resource center that fulfilled the developmental needs of teen students who thrive on interaction and independence. When designing spaces for students of all ages, the MooreCo team relies on their knowledge of optimal human development to produce environments where everyone can thrive. With flexible workspaces, supportive educators, and a community of supportive parents, the students of Glenbrook will thrive in their academic career and beyond. ■

For more information on MooreCo's design and space planning services, please visit [moorecoinc.com/contract](http://moorecoinc.com/contract)



