



A Render to Reality™ Success Story

McHenry Community High School: A State of the Art Science Center

When McHenry Community High School in McHenry, Illinois needed a modern update to match the needs of their high-performing students, they worked with Molly Cox and Kim Diaz of MooreCo's space planning team. McHenry is no ordinary school. Its large, industrial facility boasts 70,000 square feet of space for science, technology, and industry. With over 80 athletic and extracurricular teams, the student body of McHenry consists of busy and gifted learners with a need for spaces that can keep up with their advanced studies. McHenry offers over 33 AP and dual credit pathways for students to prepare for higher learning and the workforce, so their facilities need to match the look and feel of a real-world contemporary workspace in the digital age. But because they are still young students, this sense of work needed to be balanced with a youthful playfulness and a sense of school spirit.

Molly and Kim delivered on creating this balance by first choosing to use colors that reflected the pride of the McHenry community, while inspiring students to focus and feel at home. Gathering spaces for collaborative work in between classes and during

study periods is a mix of soft and structured seating. With the [Hierarchy Cantilever Chairs](#) in bright orange shells leading the pack, [Hierarchy 4-Leg Stools](#) were added to create dimension and tiered seating. This allows students to feel a sense of independence in a secondary school setting, as they choose bistro-inspired seating or more classic low-to-the-ground options. Molly and Kim used [soft seating](#) mixed throughout each space, using the [curved 22.5° soft seats](#) in turquoise and flame to brighten the room while providing cushiony seats for gathering. To create a sense of balance, soft [pouf stools](#) are placed throughout study spaces near [Cocoon Community Tables](#) and [Frequency X-Base Tables](#). [Round stools](#) in low and medium are used to create dimension in bright colors that help maintain an energetic sense of creativity.

Because McHenry is a school that prioritizes science and technology for their students, they require environments that foster interest and engagement in STEM. Studies show that STEM subjects for students can lead to successful careers in the sciences and technology. This has never been more important

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than it is today. Molly and Kim created proficient, functional, and inspiring tech spaces in McHenry by consciously selecting items that foster collaboration and focus. The [Orbit MediaSpace](#) soft seating couch with back shelf allows students to participate in lectures while being able to jot down notes and observations. Likewise, the [Cocoon MediaSpace](#) in Sterling Ash with platinum edgeband created a sleek look at McHenry when paired with [Hierarchy 5-Star Stools](#). The colors used reflect McHenry school pride and radiate vibrant energy, with orange and capri blue hues used on both the walls of the media rooms and the furniture. Adjacent to the media room is a secondary quiet room for tranquil focus or individual work. A simple armchair is displayed near a [Hierarchy stool](#) in an orange shell to accommodate either work or reflection in this private space for students to use.

High school students need to be able to discover their own independence and create friendships simultaneously. These needs can be met with the

right design. Molly and Kim created spaces for McHenry students that feel like breakrooms at a top technical company, while maintaining a youthful energy that reflects adolescence. Custom round tables are used throughout the space with [Hierarchy chairs](#), [armless loveseats](#), and [pouf stools](#). Each space is balanced with use of soft and modern upholstery and ergonomic seats for working long hours. In the end, the MooreCo team's success at McHenry was met with enthusiastic reception from students and faculty. As each scholar prepares for the workforce of today, they have top-of-the-line facilities, faculty, and furniture to help them grow. Fostering collaboration, focus, and reflection, McHenry's school design will be enjoyed by its inhabitants for years to come, thanks to the help and vision of Molly and Kim. ■

For more information on MooreCo's design and space planning services, please visit moorecoinc.com/contract



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