



IS YOUR DATA PROTECTED?
Weather Any Storm With **EATEL**
Business
[Learn More »](#)

DATA CENTER
solutions

New technology centers offer modern take on education

By: Lance Traweek, Managing Editor | May 11, 2017 | 0

Innovation and Technology Centers are sprouting up in schools in the New Orleans metro area – educational hubs that offer a sleek new concept to education.

Blitch Knevel Architects has designed three so far in elementary and secondary schools in the past few years in the New Orleans area, including St. Martin's Episcopal School, St. Mary's Dominican High School and Academy of the Sacred Heart.

President Ron Blitch said the idea is a new trend at progressive schools. All three cost well over \$1 million each.

St. Mary's Ermenia Wadsworth/Azby Fund Technology Center was completed in 2016. It offers a large, flexible creative space with access to varied seating options. New technology includes smart TVs and data hookups. Blitch said there's a robotics lab and classroom that round out the 1,700 square feet.

"Kids can really get messy and get their hands into projects and have no constraints," Blitch said. "The space they are in will not hinder an idea they may have."

St. Martin's Gibbs Family Center for Innovation and Design was recently completed this year. The Idea Lab has a central space with whiteboards projection capabilities throughout. A wood shop, build shop and outdoor space are complimented with a production studio in the 4,000-square-foot center.

In these labs, children will often work in groups on projects.

Academy of the Sacred Heart's Innovation Lab and Maker's Room is currently under construction. Once completed later this year, the 1,500-square-foot center opens to a newly renovated library to allow synergy between both spaces, Blitch said. Besides new technology, the Maker's Room has 3-D printing, fabrication tables and access to outside work area as well.

Blitch said the spaces offer an innovative space for the collaboration of students of all ages. The spaces have raw finishes that can be reconfigured easily, he said.

"There is a fine line between making these spaces nice, presentable and beautiful for the school but also making them indestructible so the kids can do what they need to do," he said. "Education is changing. These types of spaces are developing out of the success of robotics programs."

He said these centers are generating ultimate flexibility and creativity among children.

"This loosens the kids' imaginations," he said. "No one will say the desks need to be three feet apart. The idea is that they do what they want."

To sign up for free CityBusiness Daily Updates, click [here](#).

Edit

Tagged with:

ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART

INNOVATION CENTERS

RONALD BLITCH

ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

ST. MARY'S DOMINICAN HIGH SCHOOL

Was Your Business Affected by the 2016 Floods?
GET RECOVERY INFO HERE

RESTORE
REBUILD REOPEN RECOVER

