



Earning Top Marks for Design Expertise.

East Ridge High School and Business Interiors by Staples

At Business Interiors by Staples, we take the time to understand your organization's needs and provide planning, design, product selection and installation services to help you achieve your desired results. Whether you are creating a new environment or just giving an existing space a facelift, our unparalleled selection of products, design expertise and proven project management will deliver the best value, every time.

Here is an example of how Business Interiors by Staples worked with an educational institution to create a welcoming environment at a newly constructed school to help optimize learning and promote positive social and academic interactions.

The Company

Nestled in the Minnesota suburbs between Saint Paul and Minneapolis, East Ridge High School was recently built to support the community's needs for high-quality education. With 1,600 students and 115 faculty members, the new school is committed to providing students with relevant opportunities in and out of the classroom, helping individuals reach their fullest potential and supporting goals related to higher education and career readiness.

The Challenge

With the architectural design planning for East Ridge underway, led by Paul Youngquist of Rego + Youngquist, Inc., the school's staff had a vision for the type of environment they wanted to create – one that would promote collaboration, camaraderie, learning and a strong sense of pride among students and staff. With 372,000 square feet of space, East Ridge knew that the design and furnishings would play an important role in how students interacted, worked and socialized in the new space.

“ Business Interiors by Staples was with us every step of the way – from initial planning and design to product selection to delivery and installation. Staples cares about getting every detail right and the results they delivered made our school what is it today – a place we can proudly call home. ”

Aaron Harper
Principal
East Ridge High School



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With numerous Learning Resource Centers, private offices, conference rooms, waiting areas, as well as a media center and library, East Ridge aimed to create a university-like setting for students and ultimately partnered with Business Interiors by Staples to help execute their vision.

The Solution

The team at Business Interiors by Staples worked closely with Harper and Rego + Youngquist, Inc. to ensure that all furnishings would take advantage of design elements such as the use of natural light throughout the space. In addition, the concept of a “Main Street” was implemented to provide a central route to classrooms, learning areas and meeting spaces, while maintaining an efficient student flow before and after classes.



East Ridge also had specific technology requirements that needed to be met as its Learning Resource Centers were multi-purpose and included open classroom space, small group meeting areas, computer stations and lab space. Longevity and durability were also key considerations as selected furnishings needed to withstand ongoing wear and tear. In addition, East Ridge wanted to incorporate environmentally friendly solutions where appropriate, as well as design elements that complemented the building’s exterior landscaping.

The Business Interiors by Staples team conducted extensive on-site reviews of the latest educational furnishings, equipment and décor, attending the National School Supply & Equipment Association (NSSEA) tradeshow and the The National Exposition of Contract Furnishings (NeoCon) World’s Trade Fair. Staples provided





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recommendations for a mix of furniture from several vendors, combined with custom-made items, all of which met East Ridge's requirements and were well-coordinated across function and finish to provide a consistent look and feel.

Recommended furnishings were then incorporated into existing CAD-produced design renderings to showcase how the space would be utilized, coordinated and installed. The Staples team worked hand-in-hand with the staff at East Ridge to review and modify design elements throughout the process and provided real-time updates on spending, allowing the school to shift and reprioritize budgets as needed. As the project neared completion, Staples provided daily progress reports with critical details related to shipments, delivery, staging and installation.

The Results

As a result of working with Business Interiors by Staples, the vision of East Ridge's staff was made a reality. The space is inviting and collaborative – a place where students and staff truly enjoy spending time. Business Interiors by Staples' exceptional project management ensured that the school's quality, budget and schedule requirements were met, if not exceeded. All decisions were closely coordinated with the school's staff and architectural team, resulting in an air-tight project plan and timeline and an environment that facilitates high-quality education.

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