

**Lewisburg Area School District**  
**Educational Needs Report**  
**March 16, 2010**

**High School**

On October 20-23, 2008, Lewisburg Area High School hosted a visitation team as part of the Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools accreditation for growth process. As a part of that report, facilities were examined by the committee. The report states “Serious consideration and plans must be made to provide an appropriate facility to meet the needs of expanding programs to meet the needs of students within the next decade.” Another part of the report states “...the school is fully occupied at the present time. This limits the ability of administration to expand quality programs.” This report will summarize some of the specific areas that are currently being affected by the current facility.

**Classroom Size** – The majority of classrooms in the current high school are undersized and many are severely undersized. Although various research has been done on how the number of students in a classroom will affect learning, the size of the room itself will most likely have a greater impact. The Pennsylvania Department of Education recommends a minimum of 680 square feet per classroom. Several classrooms in the high school are less than half the size recommended by the Commonwealth and many do not meet the recommended standard. This has greatly affected the ability of teachers to fully implement new teaching strategies designed to differentiate instruction for the success of all types of learners. In particular, the smaller classroom size prevents teachers from conducting activities that promote the learning and practice of 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills demanded by today’s employers.

**Visual Arts** – The area designated for instruction in the Visual Arts is very inadequate. The school only has one room designated for Art and many of the afternoon art classes share a regular classroom that is used in the morning to teach Spanish. Within the very small Art Room, there are continuous problems with the water/drains necessary for many projects, storage space for supplies is inadequate, and room does not exist for introduction and use of technological resources. Students taking art are frequently working on top of each other. Class sizes have also been restricted due to the limited space, which prevents many students from scheduling certain art classes as electives. The “Cave” has been added in the hallway to help accommodate larger projects required of AP Art students but this remains an inadequate solution for the students who are taking the two AP Art classes currently offered.

**Performing Arts** – The performing arts department also struggles with adequate space for storage and rehearsals. As the Marching and Symphonic Bands have grown in size (up to 140 members), the space allotted for practice is very inadequate. Although the recent upgrades to the auditorium are very attractive, the lack of space in the wings and back stage restrict the types of musical and theatrical productions that can be produced.

**Athletics** – As an important part of the educational experience of Lewisburg Area High School, upgrades to the athletic facilities are long overdue. The current gymnasium at the high school is suitable only for physical education class and some conditioning activities for athletic teams. The ability to have only one competition gym for the entire athletic program (middle school and high school) creates major scheduling problems and could raise Title IX concerns in the future. With the exception of Varsity Football practice and Girl's Lacrosse, all other sports programs are forced to practice and play at various sites away from the high school. Reliance on Bucknell University for a football field has created the need to find alternative sites to play home football games every season. The boy's lacrosse team practices and plays at a site in Winfield, which creates concerns about student travel to and from the site down route 15. Finally, the current soccer field is located on the baseball field which is not level at the west end and has most of a dirt infield at the east end. Neither soccer team has an adequate practice facility.

## **Middle School**

### **Classroom and Instructional Needs**

The architecture of the middle school should reflect our commitment to research-based teaching strategies. For example, customization of classroom walls for the specific purpose of posting student work, Learning Maps, Agendas, Essential Questions, Bell-Ringers, etc. should be considered.

Small group instruction areas are needed in each quad (a grouping of four classrooms) of the building and in the Social Studies and Science halls to accommodate learning support students and individual learning. Separate lab and classroom space should be provided in the science rooms adjoined by individual prep space for the science teachers. Two additional Quads should be constructed to accommodate the content areas of Science and Social Studies.

Add an auxiliary gym for adaptive physical education for special education students. Also a separate health classroom and modern locker rooms are needed to support the physical education program.

An auditorium for choral, band, orchestra and drama programs should be added. Also, the current band room is not able to meet the current capacity of students in the program and needs to be increased for the larger band sizes.

Individual Team Meeting Rooms are needed for each grade level team to display specific data, team norms, student work, etc. This will support the professional learning community work that is needed to ensure all grade level teams and working together to meet the needs of students.

## **Infrastructure Needs**

For security purposes, we should move the front office across the hall to eliminate access of outside visitors to the entire building without registering first.

The basic infrastructure of the building needs updated including heating. It is also recommended that air-conditioning be installed for the entire building. The bell/clock system needs upgraded or replaced to accommodate our flexible schedules.

Water fountains should be installed in any room without one. Additional storage space for new classrooms and the school in general should be considered in any renovation or addition project.

## **Linntown Elementary**

**Classroom Needs:** In order to promote student engagement and hands-on learning, there needs to be adequate space in classrooms. Classrooms would have adequate storage spaces and all rooms would have running water, working fountains, windows, etc. A “pod” room for each grade level to house shared materials for each grade level would be available. Each grade level would also ideally have a common room (similar to the old fifth grade quad), where several classes could fit and be able to participate in activities with other classes. Classrooms and spaces would be designed to provide flexibility and enable staff to combine student groups with more than one teacher. Each grade level should be housed in the same area of the school to promote collaboration between staff and students.

**Support Teachers:** As the staff works to meet the needs of all students and accommodate a variety of learning styles and IEP accommodations, it is essential that there is space in the facility to make this happen. Support teachers should have their own rooms, or should only have to share with a limited number of people. A variety of rooms for small group work would be available for staff and students. As the school services more and more students with spectrum disorders, a true sensory room should be designated in the building.

**Related Arts Teachers:** Space is the main need for the related arts staff. The music room should be designed so that a variety of activities- dancing, instrument playing, etc. can take place. Having a music keyboard lab for students would also be a nice addition for the music department. The library is currently running out of space to house books and materials. An expansion, especially if third grade move to Linntown, would be a necessity. The library/media center should really be the hub of the school where there are spaces for both the library classes to occur, but also for teachers to be able to bring their classes down for research or other activities. If there were an additional grade level added to the school, a second gym for physical education classes would also be critical.

**Technology:** Ideally, technology would be integrated into the design of the building with all classrooms having interactive whiteboards, projectors, and a built-in audio system. Designated storage spaces would be created for the laptop carts so that they are easily accessible, but not blocking the hallways. An “LGI” type room would be available where a “green room” wall could be painted for video projects. This could be used for technology projects including broadcasting, podcasting, etc. The media center would have additional computers that where students could access the card catalog and complete research. Copiers and printers would be available throughout the building in convenient locations.

**Additional Items:** The number of restrooms should be increased and located more conveniently to the classrooms and areas of supervision.

Having a multi-purpose room that accommodates the entire school comfortably is a must for a new/renovated school. This should not be the same space as the cafeteria, as it limits when the space is able to utilized. If there were a way for an auditorium to be shared with the MS could be built, it would provide more flexibility for concerts and special events and ease some of the burden of the HS having to be used.

Having a science lab where teachers can take classes has been an important space in the Linntown School and one that would like to be maintained. Additional cabinets to safely store materials and equipment would be beneficial.

Air conditioning in the building would make the building more conducive for student learning in the early fall and late spring, as well as provide more flexibility for building use in the summer.

### **Kelly Elementary**

#### **Classroom and Instructional Needs:**

Sufficient storage is critical for all classrooms at the primary school level including cubbies and hangers. POD areas are critical for common and small group instruction and need to be part of any future design for additions or renovations.

Primary age classrooms need to be large enough to accommodate play areas and furniture that help promote the social, emotional, and developmental aspect of schooling.

Kelly has a wonderful, well-appointed library. This needs to maintained or expanded in any future renovation project. A separate library classroom should be reinstated. It was reconfigured into a special education classroom a few years ago.

Appropriate accommodations need to be made to ensure current and future technology can be integrated and used in all classrooms.

### **Infrastructure Needs**

It is important to provide separate classrooms for music and art so these programs can be taught by certified instructors in these areas, not off of a cart in the regular classroom.

There should be a sink and water fountain in every room, and a bathroom in every Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten classroom.

There should be common storage area for each grade level so that materials can be easily shared among each team.

A larger conference room and guidance suit is needed to maintain materials and allow students a place to engage in play activities and work through problems.

A classroom equipped with a kitchen area should be reinstated so teachers can do baking and cooking projects with students. This room is currently housing the Pre-K Program.

More adult bathrooms are needed throughout the building.

All learning areas should be air-conditioned.