

What's New

New Vista Designs for 21 Century Learning works with public, charter and independent schools across the U.S. and abroad to facilitate the design of innovative academic programs and the facilities that house them. In addition to its ongoing collaborations with partner organizations Architects of Achievement, and the Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM, New Vista is engaged in the following current and recent projects.

October 2012

Listing of Current and Recent New Vista Projects

Linden STEAM Academy / PBL Technical Assistance

August 2012 – June 2013, Malden, MA

New Vista is providing ongoing teacher training and technical assistance to the Linden STEAM Academy in fulfillment of the school's i3 (Investing in Innovation) Grant. With a focus on the creation of inquiry-based programming for its K-8 STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) program, New Vista is working with Linden to build teacher capacity and expertise in the planning, tuning, and assessment of student-centered and project-based curricula.

http://www.malden.mec.edu/LindenSchool.cfm

Sanford School Department / Educational Specifications

September 2012 - June 2013, Sanford, ME

New Vista is providing educational planning and visioning assistance to the Sanford School Department for the architectural programing and design of a new \$135m high school and Career Technical Education (CTE) program. Sanford's forward-thinking program aims to combine head and hand within an integrated academic and vocational campus that will serve as a model for CTE delivery in the state. New Vista is tasked with the production of Educational Specifications for the State of Maine that will set design goals and parameters for the facility that aim to fully support its unique educational vision. www.sanford.org

Dearborn 6-12 STEM Academy / Academic and Architectural Program Development

May 2012 - December 2012, Roxbury, MA

New Vista is working directly for the Massachusetts School Building Authority, and in collaboration with the city of Boston to assist in the academic visioning and conceptual design of the new Dearborn 6-12 STEM Academy, a "turnaround" middle school in Roxbury Massachusetts that seeks to harness the power of problem-based learning to engage students in a rigorous, authentic, and STEM-focused middle and high school curriculum. New Vista ran a series of community and stakeholder workshops that led to the subsequent creation of a Preliminary Design Guide that will inform the soon-to-begin architectural design process. www.bostonpublicschools.org/school/dearborn-middle-school

Pingry School / 21st Century Academic and Architectural Visioning

November 2011 – Ongoing, Short Hills/Martinsville, NJ

New Vista engaged a group of Lower and Upper School teachers, administrators, and development team members from the Pingry School in New Jersey, in a visioning process that sought to connect the school's newly conceived 21st Century Learning Outcomes to architectural design patterns and themes that will inform the renovation of its Lower and Upper School facilities. The fruits of this process include narratives and illustrations that will be used to guide Pingry's donor campaign, as well as give direction to the architectural design process as it unfolds.

www.pingry.org

Pittsfield School District / PBL Technical Assistance

November 2011 – June 2013, Pittsfield, NH

New Vista is providing ongoing teacher training and technical assistance to a team of teacher leaders from the Pittsfield Middle High School and Pittsfield Elementary School. Recipients of a 2012 Nellie Mae Education Foundation District Level Change Grant, Pittsfield schools are in the process of substantially restructuring their K-12 programming to adopt more student-centered, project-focused, and competency-based practices. New Vista's focus is on helping the schools to build capacity and expertise in project planning, authentic assessment, and exhibitions of student learning. www.pittsfield-nh.com

New Academies / Educational Programming

November 2011 – Ongoing, New York, NY

New Vista is working with the thought leaders of a proposed new network of independent middle and high schools in Manhattan, to help them envision a unique and forward-thinking facility for their "blended learning" program. With a large portion of course content slated to be delivered via a robust and interactive online platform, New Academies will beta test a variety of highly flexible, interactive, and technology-rich learning environments. New Vista has been tasked with shepherding the program's design visioning, architectural program development, site feasibility studies, and architectural hiring process.

David Prouty High School / Educational Programming

April 2012 – October 2012

New Vista collaborated with Design Partnership of Cambridge as the Educational Planner for the new David Prouty High School facility in Spencer, MA. The teachers of Spencer and East Brookfield, MA, are embracing a vision of 21st century education that aims to create highly engaging and relevant experiences for students. They plan for their new or renovated high school facility to boast a variety of hands-on fabrication and production labs, as well as to foster community connections and extended learning opportunities. www.seb.mec.edu

Groton School / Science Center Pre-Design

November 2011 - May 2012, Groton, MA

New Vista worked in collaboration with Architects of Achievement as the Educational Programmer for the Groton School Science Center. The new 30,000 square feet, \$30 million center is tasked with bringing the Groton School's science and math departments into the 21st century by providing a forward-thinking facility that will both allow and encourage its teachers to model best practices in the delivery of integrated STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programming. New Vista was hired to lead school study tours, facilitate STEM-focused academic visioning and curriculum development workshops, assist in the creation of Guiding Principles for design of the building, develop the architectural program for the facility, and guide the design team through a hands-on process of creating preliminary conceptual designs.

www.groton.org

West Bridgewater Middle-Senior High School / Feasibility Study

September – December 2011, West Bridgewater, MA

New Vista worked in collaboration with Flansburgh Architects, Boston MA, as Educational Programmer for the West Bridgewater Middle-Senior High School. In this capacity, New Vista offered design workshops to the faculty and larger community aimed at helping them to think outside-of-the-box as they approached the design of either a new or renovated school facility. Though fairly traditional in its thinking about school programming, the West Bridgewater community became excited about designing for flexibility, differentiated instruction, and a focus on 21st century skills. New Vista assisted in conducting user group interviews, creating the architectural program for the school, and offering feedback on the schematic design plan as developed. www.wbridgewaterschools.org

TIES (Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM) / STEM Model School Development September 2011 – Ongoing

New Vista works in collaboration with Architects of Achievement to assist the Baltimore-based Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM (TIES) with the development of strategies and models for technical assistance in the creation of innovative STEM - (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) focused curricula, teacher training, and facilities development. In September 2011, New Vista facilitated a two-day retreat of STEM professionals focused on next-steps involved in the implementation of TIES' design-focused learning model within its network schools.

www.tiesteach.org

Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School / CTE Facility Design June 2010 – June 2012, Danvers, MA

New Vista consulted over a two year period with the North Shore Technical High School (NSTH) and Essex Agricultural and Technical High School (Essex Aggie) on the design of their new \$135m facility and merged academic programs in Danvers, MA. Now in construction, the new 337,000 square foot facility will house four semi-autonomous academies that will form the State's most diversified secondary school devoted to career education. The new building is slated for occupancy in 2014 and is being designed by the Design Partnership of Cambridge. In addition to consulting with the architects on programming and schematic design, New Vista facilitated the development of a Merger Leadership Team that met bimonthly to ensure thoughtful academic visioning and planning for the impending merger.

www.agtech.org www.nsths.net

Berrien Springs School District / PBL Training June 2010 – Ongoing, Berrien Springs, MI

New Vista is engaged in a multi-year contract with the Berrien Springs Public Schools in rural Michigan to provide district-wide technical assistance in all aspects of project-based teaching and learning. Since June 2010, New Vista has been working with BSPS to create and implement a set of 21st century learning goals and practices that include team teaching, project development, authentic assessment, and student exhibitions of learning. Ongoing professional development as been aimed at training teachers to take leadership roles in the implementation and cultivation of projects within the district's middle school, high school, virtual academy, alternative school, and adult-education program. New Vista's work has also focused on the creation of a virtual PBL platform for sharing and monitoring materials, resources, and project examples.

www.homeoftheshamrocks.org

MUSE Elementary School / FF&E Services February 2011 – March 2012, Santa Monica, CA

New Vista worked with Architects of Achievement in the selection and specification of Furniture, Fixtures, & Equipment for the MUSE Elementary School's new Calabasas campus, set within a picturesque canyon within two miles of Malibu Beach. The K-5 independent school provides a Reggio Emilia inspired academic program with a strong focus on the environment and sustainability. Presently enrolling 60 children, the newly renovated campus with grow to house up to 240. A centrally located Lodge Building houses the communal functions of the school, such as dining, community gatherings, parent meetings, and quiet study within a multi-purpose space that is furnished with highly flexible and environmentally friendly furniture. Classrooms contain multiple activity zones that are defined by furniture groupings meant to inspire creative exploration.

Harlem Village Academy / Construction Phase June 2005 – Ongoing, Harlem, NY

New Vista has consulted with Harlem Village Academies (HVA) over a seven year period on a variety of design projects, most recently their new high school design. Within this context, New Vista has provided HVA with services that include educational visioning, architectural programming, interviewing and hiring architects, conceptual design, schematic design, construction documentation, value engineering, detailing of interior spaces, and the selection of finish materials and furniture. Additionally, New Vista has provided assistance in the creation of fund-raising documents and outreach materials for the new school. Wtih construction of the five-story high school building having been completed in September 2012, the new building has met with rave reviews.

MC2 STEM High School / 11-12 Campus Design

December 2010 – Ongoing, Cleveland

New Vista worked in collaboration with Architects of Achievement to run visioning and program development workshops for the design of the MC2 STEM High School's 11-12 Campus in Cleveland, OH. Each grade level of the project-based MC2 school is connected to a different industry partner: the 9th grade program is located at the Great Lakes Science Center; the 10th grade program is on the STEM industry corporate campus at GE Nela Park; and the 11-12 campus is slated to be located in a renovated 42,000 sf. building in the heart of downtown Cleveland.

Nellie Mae Education Foundation / Best Practices in Student Centered Learning May 2010 – August 2011, Quincy, MA

In 2010, the Nellie Mae Education Foundation embarked upon a new giving campaign to support student-centered programming in schools within the New England states. New Vista's David Stephen wrote a feature article about project-based learning for NMEF's inaugural newsletter, worked with the foundation to develop case studies of schools with promising student-centered practices, and is now working directly with two District Level School Change grant recipients.