

# THE BLAKE SCHOOL CENTER FOR SCIENCE, DESIGN & RESEARCH

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Our fourth project for The Blake School involved the renovation of their Upper School Science and Library wing, which dated back to the 1980's. Over the last three decades, teaching methodologies and technology have advanced considerably, and the Science Wing needed an update to reflect the changes. Similarly, digital media has dramatically altered the place the Library now holds in contemporary schools; no longer a place of solitary, quiet study, the modern high school library is now a place of collaboration, teamwork and interaction. Our project addressed both floors of the Science and Library Wing to accommodate these changes, and the wing is now collectively called the Center for Science, Design, and Research.





## CENTER FOR SCIENCE, DESIGN, AND RESEARCH

Comprised of 26,700 sf of interior renovation, the wing houses 8 smart classrooms for teaching physics, biology and chemistry, seminar and meeting rooms, the library, staff offices and support space. The center of the new wing is the Commons, a two-story space with a large stair that acts as a central gathering spot, impromptu auditorium and student lounge. The palette of the new space is light and airy, intended to allow the content of the classrooms, the students and their work, to be the focus. Many of the walls throughout the wing are dry erase boards, encouraging discussion and dialog between students and faculty, and fostering a relaxed environment of thought and inquiry.



▲ Interior photograph of the Commons, gathering space.

◀ Interior photograph of a new Physics classroom.



◀ Left: Interior photograph of a new Biology classroom.



◀ Left: Interior photograph of the new Media classroom.



◀ Left: Interior photograph of the new Advanced Wet Lab, designed to emulate an existing historic chemistry lab.