

# SIT OR STAND: FLEXIBLE SEATING AFFECTS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

St. Mary School, Ridgefield

2020-2021  
PROJECT UPDATE



Grant Amount: \$7,500  
Project Cost: \$8,977



66 Students Impacted  
Grades 6-8

**PURPOSE:** To create student-centered fluid workspaces that support instructional best practices and promote collaborative learning. Flexible seating gives students the option to control the physical environment in which they work best which thereby gives them the autonomy and comfort to stay involved and focused. This leads to increased student engagement which is linked to higher motivation and academic performance, as well as improved overall behavior.

**IMPACT:** The use of flexible seating has allowed students to work together in small groups and to easily switch to independent work. As students all work at different paces, flexible seating makes it easier for teachers to measure student progress during a project, small group work, independent work and teacher led groups. We have found that when students have ownership of their space, they are more productive.

**FUTURE PLANS:** This project will continue. As the middle school grows, we will add additional seating options.

