REDESIGNING SCHOOL LIBRARIES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

School libraries are more important than ever. Despite the fact that teachers and students no longer need a library to access information, there are two other purposes for the library that support teaching and learning. First, libraries can serve as a hub for learning how to navigate information, with a focus on technology and information literacy skills. Second, as learning becomes more participatory through performance- and project-based projects, libraries are being transformed into "learning commons" where students can co-construct new knowledge together using a variety of sources.

As teaching and learning practices evolve, so should school library spaces. Printed books are still important, but there should also be "more open spaces and common areas that allow students and teachers to get together for creating, sharing, and collaborating" (Paragon Furniture, 2021). Key considerations for redesigning a library include:

1. Flexibility—Creating a flexible space, with furniture and shelving that easily can be moved and rearranged into different configurations, expands the range of activities you can support in your library.

2. Openness—Make sure you include open spaces in your design, to allow for students and teachers to gather together for learning and collaboration.

3. Comfort—Your library should be a place where students and teachers want to drop in, hang around, have conversations and learn.
4. Infrastructure—Make sure your library includes enough power outlets to support the ever-increasing assortment of electronic devices that students come to school with. And, make sure your library offers secure wireless internet access throughout the facility.
5. Access—When redesigning your library, consider whether you would like to make the space open and accessible to the public, because this will affect the design of the space as well.

For more ideas, access this link.