



Vestal Central School District

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Vestal High School provides real-world design opportunity for students in Civil Engineering course

Once again, Vestal High School lets its students take the lead in improving the school's environment!

To improve workflow and student space in the Counseling & Guidance suite, K – 12 Counseling & Guidance Chair Christi Smith collaborated with Civil Engineering teacher Christopher Klatt. He developed the project as a class assignment for his students during the 2022-23 school year.

Like design professionals, students measured the areas to be renovated, gathered information, conducted surveys with students and staff who utilize the space, created designs, and presented their ideas. The top three designs selected, by Donovan Donlin, Nathan Klym, and Andrea Waldmiller, were formally presented to District administrators.

Implementations were begun this school year, with one wall painted a bright green, a sensory marble wall panel installed, new seating options provided, and other décor changes made.

"Some of the suggestions were so basic and easy to implement at no cost," said Vestal High School Counselor Christi Smith. "I think it has become an invested space for a lot of people."

Students who participated from the Civil Engineering class experienced the benefits of creating designs with real-world applications, interviewing skills, public-speaking and presentation practice, and other marketing skills.

Many thanks to the District's Facilities & Operations staff who performed most of the work, such as moving bookcases, painting walls, and reconfiguring office layout. Students have a quiet zone they can use during free periods or lunches to study or just decompress. And Counseling & Guidance staff have a brighter and more efficient setting in which to serve Vestal High School students!