

LONGFELLOW DESIGN CHALLENGES

The passage of the November 2015 bond issue is bringing many exciting changes to the district. At Longfellow Elementary, students are working collaboratively with the architects from Then Design to create outdoor recreation and learning spaces for their new school.

The fifth grade students first met at the beginning of the school year and started the project with a problem statement. They stated, "How can we as outdoor designers uniquely maximize the use of our new outdoor common space in such a way that we consider cost, safety, size/space, timeline and the community?" As the students move throughout their design challenge, they must ensure that their suggestions meet the criteria mentioned in their initial statement. This experience allows students to participate in a real-world design challenge and reinforces lessons learned in the classroom.



The animation of the new Longfellow can be viewed [HERE](#).



At the same time that the students are offering design suggestions for the outdoor spaces, the staff at Longfellow is also assisting to identify recommendations for building and classroom designs. The architectural team has met with the staff several times and will continue to do so during the construction phases. This process helps to maintain a two-way conversation and guarantee that the building is comprised of flexible learning spaces that allow for flexibility for future growth.