



APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2020.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: County of Henrico

Program Title: If you Build It, Students Will Come (and Learn)

Program Category: Community and Economic Development

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Brandon Hinton

Title: Deputy County Manager for Administration

Signature: 

Program Overview

At the start of the 2018-19 school year, Douglas S. Freeman High School in Henrico County was struggling to find enough classrooms for the classes the school offered. The school held video and media classes in two spaces: one traditional room for instruction and another that served as a TV production studio. When school administrators examined the school's classroom schedule, they realized that the TV production studio was not used for multiple academic periods. As a result, the studio went to a class that could use the space for multiple periods a day.

A solution came by thinking outside the box: what if part of the existing photography and video instructional space could be repurposed? It might be possible to modify the area to support a TV production studio, while still providing sufficient space for instruction for other classes. This "space within a space" not only worked for the video class but also provided space that could be used by the photography classes for multiple academic periods a day. This win-win solution allowed the school to increase the use of valuable space in the classroom while meeting the needs of a high-quality photography and video program at Douglas Freeman.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

Older schools with multiple programs, like Douglas Freeman High School, struggle to meet the space requirements in their building. Given the challenges of scheduling classes, it's challenging to justify space for courses that will require classrooms to sit idle for some periods. While space initially occupied by the TV production studio was needed for another purpose, other classes are somewhat oversized by current standards. That space may be able to be used more efficiently.

While the need to use the classroom space more fully was important, it was a blow to video and media classes, which no longer had adequate space to meet their needs. The classes had to scramble to make do in less-than-ideal circumstances.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

Many localities have older school facilities that present scheduling challenges. This idea can serve as a model for helping those facilities do “double duty.” Schools have many needs, and some time difficult decisions have to be made — decisions that have a ripple effect. Through collaboration and creative thinking, a practical solution benefited all stakeholders involved. This solution met the challenge head-on and maximized learning opportunities for current students, as well as for those who will use the new space for years to come.

How Program Was Carried Out

Before the start of the 2018-19 school year, there was a need for additional classrooms at Douglas Freeman High School. The video and media classes had a dedicated TV production space, but was not used during every academic block. As a result, space was prioritized to be used for other instructional purposes. This left the video and media classes with a challenge, using other instructional areas not designed for TV production. Students used an awkward, smaller space that lacked adequate lighting, the ability to isolate and deaden sound, and room for the entire class to meet at once. The teacher and students did the best they could for the year.

In November 2018, students in the technical drawing and architecture classes at Douglas Freeman were given a real-world assignment: take an existing classroom at the school and modify it to accommodate a new TV production studio. Students interviewed the “clients” (school staff and students, along with central office administrators) to determine the scope of the project.

Several designs were created, including 3D walkthroughs of the space. A student's design was selected as a plan for what the new studio could resemble.

The following school year, in September 2019, staff members of Henrico Schools' Department of Career and Technical Education met with the school principal to review possibilities for the new studio. It was determined that this studio could be created, in coordination with the HCPS Department of Facilities — and that the project could be turned into a broader learning experience for students. A target construction date was set for November 2019. Carpentry students at the Advanced Career Education Center at Highland Springs specialty center were involved, including some “zoned” to attend Douglas Freeman. They worked alongside career and technical education and facilities staff to learn from experts while helping to build the new studio. County electricians and painters were able to support the students while enabling the students to learn about their trades.

Students in the photography and video club were included as part of the process. They learned the best ways to prepare a new wall for painting, how to develop an existing wall with a different type of paint, and proper application techniques.

Since the studio was built inside instructional space used by video and photography classes, the area is now able to be used for more academic periods during the day. In addition to TV production, wall space and lighting can be integrated into various photography assignments. Since the studio is now within the traditional classroom, it provides the opportunity for the teacher to supervise students in both spaces easily.

Financing and Staffing

There were no staffing costs: carpentry students worked alongside career and technical education and facilities staff members to learn from experts while helping to build the new studio. Costs for the project went for materials used to build the new space. Total costs were under \$10,000, which went for:

- Construction of three new walls to form the production space and control room.
- Electrical modifications.
- Painting
- Large windows to improve safety and visibility.

Program Results

This project gave rise to four meaningful outcomes:

- Douglas Freeman High School increased its physical space to meet instructional needs for both general classes and a technical course.
- Students enrolled in technical drawing and architecture classes got the chance to draft designs for a real-world project.
- Carpentry students got meaningful on-the-job learning experience.
- Studio space was built to match the quality and professionalism of the school's instruction.

Brief Summary

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they realized that the TV production studio was not used for multiple academic periods. As a result, the studio went to a class that could use the space for multiple periods a day.

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Supplemental Material

