THINKING ABOUT CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

When thinking about our classroom environment it is helpful to consider three principles; (1) Student Independence, (2) Student Ownership and (3) Purpose.

Student Independence
- Are there centers in the room where materials are stored (math, writing) and students can access the materials that they need?
- Is there a leveled library where students can select texts that match their independent reading level?
- Are there areas in the room that students can select to work independently (other than their desks)?

Ownership
- Is there a place in the room that students can display work that they feel they want to share with an audience?
- Have students had a role in developing the library? Does the library reflect their interests and who they are as readers?
- Are signs and charts made with/by the students?
- Do students have a voice about how the classroom looks/feels?

Purpose
Everything that is in the classroom should have a purpose that supports teaching and learning.
- Is there a meeting area with a rug for the purpose of whole class teaching?
- Are there areas in the room for small group work?
- Are all charts purposeful and reflect the current unit of study?
- Are all teacher papers neatly stored and organized so that they are quickly accessible?