After discussing media centers with media specialists as well as reading articles, I found that several areas were missing in the Jefferson Parkway Media Center. Chapter 6 gives details about what should be included in the media center facility. A number of the discussed areas were missing from Jefferson Parkway’s layout. There needed to be an area for teaching, and an area for quiet reading and storytelling. I decided that the tables could be reconfigured in order to make an area on the floor where students could sit during instruction time. The tables are directly behind them, which create easy access for when the lesson is over. They have guided practice or independent practice on the skill that was taught. The tables are also next to the reference area. I included a cozy reading area, which will have a sofa as well as throw pillows for students to use during Self-Selected Reading (SSR). I would like to use that as a “reward” area. Each day of the week would be assigned to a grade level. For instance Monday would be for 1st grade readers. One student from each class in that grade could come to the media center for SSR. This might be a reward for good behavior or improved behavior or improvement in reading. It could also be used as encouragement to struggling students. I would include a couple of soft glow reading lamps in this reading area. I did not use fluorescent overhead lights in my classroom. I had 10 lamps with efficient fluorescent light bulbs. I wanted to have the reading area in a quieter place, but to have it behind the shelves means that children are not as well supervised. In the back corner we still have empty shelves and that is where I would like to have a story time area. When I have taken my classes in to the media center to read to them, I have gone in that back corner so that we are not disturbed. It really does cut down on the sound. Next to the “Quiet Reading Area”, I would like to have some of the featured books on a shelf so that they are handy. The new books would also be featured in the display case next to the entrance of the media center. I would like to have the periodicals next to the reading area, but the periodical shelving is built into the wall and to move the reading area next to it would put it in a high traffic area. All of the media specialists lamented the fact that some things can not be changed. I think it would be a good idea for media specialists to have input on the construction of new media centers. I will never forget the day that an assistant superintendent walked into our media center with plans for a new elementary school. I happened to be in the media center that day and he was asking for the input of people throughout the county. The media specialist took a look at the plans and immediately saw several problems with the media center. She very nicely pointed out some things and justified her response. He got his plans and walked out. Maybe he was going around wanting everyone to tell him how wonderful it was and didn’t want to hear any suggestions. I don’t know why he wasted his time. It has always amazed me that end users are not consulted on anything. I especially love the example in the book about the architect that built a bridge that was quickly closed!

The added or revised areas are on the second map and the additions are in Word Art with rainbow letters.

(This crashed about ten times but I THINK it will finally come up after I switched to my third computer.)
Jefferson Parkway Elementary Media Center with changes added.

These doors lead outside and are rarely used.
Jefferson Parkway Elementary Media Center Clean Copy

- Computer Lab
- Circulation Desk
- Media Specialist's Office
- Restroom
- Storage
- Professional Collection
- Nonfiction
- Picture Books
- Fiction
- Reference
- Periodicals
- Guided Reading Room - books are on shelves
- Promethean Board
- Feature New Books in Display Case
- Table
- Space for students to sit on the floor during instruction.
- Lookup Stations
- Table
- Table
- Table
- Sofa
- Reading Area & lamps
- Story Time Area
- Feature New Books
- Ellison and paper cutter