

Spotlight on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math: STEM Education

STEM education engages students' natural curiosity and abilities to learn through a problem solving, project oriented approach. This important focus was the impetus for development of a formal STEM education program in District 84.5.

STEM integrates skills taught in science, technology and mathematics. Its use of project-based learning provides experiences for students that enhance understanding and application of related skills in the three curriculum areas. Additionally, students get an idea about college majors and potential career choices in these areas of study.

In 2014-15, all 6th and 7th grade students at Rhodes School will be enrolled in a nine-week STEM exploratory program in Design and Modeling. The 8th grade students will have the option of enrolling in a semester-long STEM program entitled Automation and Robotics. The curriculum was created by Project Lead the Way, a leader in providing rigorous and innovative programming. They offer teacher training and curriculum support through a network of STEM teachers in elementary, middle and high school programs across the United States. The new exploratory replaced the previous Industrial Arts classes offered by Mr. Reynolds.

In the 2015-2016 school year, the 6th grade students will take Design and Modeling. Our 7th and 8th grade students will have the option of taking the Automation and Robotics program or a possible third type of STEM based program that is yet to be determined.

District 84.5 students begin learning and using technology skills and tools early in their elementary school education. If you are interested in learning more about STEM education and District 84.5's work with Project Lead the Way, contact the administrative team at Rhodes or go to pltw.org.