



WCSD



STEAM TEAM

innovation is a state of mind



Spring 2018 STEM News

Watertown City School District

Volume 1 Issue 3

After School STEM Fun!

Each of the district's schools has at least one DoDEA supported STEM Club to build student math and problem-solving skills. These clubs are possible thanks to the district's 2015 DoDEA Math Matters! grant.

Watertown High School's WHS STEM Alliance is led by Liz Stephens and Tom Joles. This group has participated in Spaghetti Bridge and is currently studying rollercoasters in preparation for Physics Day at Darien Lake this spring!

Case Middle School has 4 STEM clubs. Barb McHale leads a 3D Design and Printing club and holds open tinkering time for students to explore designs of interest to them. Lorie Autote leads Math Olympiad, for which students participate in math problem solving contests. Diane Hayes has recently become advisor to the Case Coders Club, which focuses on computer coding and related applications- including robotics. Nadine Britton's STEM Club has done many activities, including robotics, simple machines, and spaghetti bridges.

H.T. Wiley Intermediate has four clubs. Ann Fillhart leads the Math Olympiad problem solvers. In her BreakoutEDU club, Julie Swenson challenges students with engaging puzzles that involve locked boxes. Kathy Frears and Erin Loveland advised FIRST LEGO Robotics teams.

Ohio Street Elementary had an Odyssey of the Mind group advised by Stephanie Eldridge and Erika Montandon. This group presented its structural problem at the state competition in February and earned 4th place! Stephanie engages students in a variety of additional STEM activities.

Diana Branton and Darren Burgess advise **Starbuck Elementary's** B&B Startech Club. They engage students in many activities, including rockets, roller coasters, catapults, robotics, spaghetti bridges, coding, LittleBits electronics, and structural challenges.

At **North Elementary**, Lisa Gamage is leading after school STEM Club activities with focus on Ozobot robotics, coding, and 3D design & printing.

Ashely Burke and Taylor Purvis are using math games with students in their **Sherman Elementary** club to help students remember foundational math skills.

At **Knickerbocker**, Connie Hudson's club has been exploring catapults, crystals, painted maze boxes, and cup towers.



Who can participate?

Current Watertown students in grades 4-6 may attend one session

What is it?

A two week summer camp with fun, engaging hands-on activities involving science, technology, engineering & math

What's it about?

Learn about a variety of STEM topics and related careers

When & Where?

Camps will run 8 A.M. – 12:30 P.M at H.T. Wiley Intermediate School in 2 week sessions

Session I July 16-27

Session II July 30-August 10

◆ Transportation provided with community pick-up sites.

◆ Breakfast will be served at 8:00, Lunch at 12:00



This year, WCSD will hold 2 two-week summer camp sessions, serving approximately 200 students currently in grades 4-6. Applications will be sent home the week of May 1st and will be due by Friday, May 11th. Please note that applications will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis according to enrollment at each building.

Based on student feedback from camp last year, general topics will include robotics, makerspaces, and life science.

This opportunity is made available to students thanks to generous support from DoDEA. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County is also a supportive partner.



Students received a warm welcome at MVCC!



Students visit college welding facilities.



Students explore fabrication with metals.



In the fab lab, students learned about high-end 3D printing.



SUNY Poly Engineering Instructor encourages students to persevere in math and science!



7th Grade Students Visit Utica

On April 18th, 48 7th grade students and 6 staff members visited Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) and SUNY Poly Utica. This college visit was the first time district 7th graders explored a college campus and its programs. It was a great day for all, learning about the two campuses and varied programs offered to students.

MVCC provided students with college “swag” including bags, stress balls, and water bottles and lunch. One student even won a drone! Students were impressed by the trades programs offered, including welding, HVAC, fabrication, and machining. One of the instructors spoke of the need for skilled workers in trades. He explained that much of the current workforce is nearing retirement. Students received a wealth of advice, including a message about the value of flexibility and resiliency as they look to the future.

At SUNY Poly, students learned that engineering is about far more than operating trains! An electrical engineering instructor spoke with the students about the branches of engineering and what the SUNY Poly system, which includes SUNY Poly Albany, have to offer. He also encouraged students not to be discouraged in their courses, particularly mathematics. He shared that when he was in school, he wasn’t selected for advanced math, which frustrated him at the time, but it didn’t stop him from taking all the math courses he could. He persevered and became an engineer!

THANK YOU to all who play a role in supporting STEM learning opportunities for WCSD students!

For further information about STEM programs at Watertown City School District, please contact:

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