



More You Know Mondays

SEYMOUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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STEM

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What is STEM?

STEM is an acronym, a term to describe curriculum in classrooms that is focused on educating students in the connected areas of science (S), technology (T), engineering (E), and mathematics (M). You may have even heard the term “STEAM” used in some districts, which includes the arts (A).

You may wonder, what does STEM really mean?

First, in today's world, the 'T' for "technology" is not just for computers...many jobs now exist in technology fields of biomedical technologies, construction, manufacturing/engineering technologies, electronics, information, energy... the list grows as we learn more! Did you know that Seymour High School offers courses in several of these newer technology areas?

Teachers are finding ways to encourage both boys and girls to interact with these fields of math, science, technology, and engineering. STEM education is hands-on and problem-solving based. A focus of STEM instruction is to help students learn new skills that may help them with the possibility for better job opportunities in the future. Scientists, engineers, computer programmers, game developers, and mathematicians will always be necessary, and new STEM-based jobs continue to be created almost daily.

Rather than teaching these content areas as four separate subjects, STEM teachers combine them into a connected model that students can more easily apply to their world. Seymour Middle School STEM class is an exciting place for your child to apply many of these integrated concepts. Seymour High does still teach the traditional science and math classes, and STEM classes and teachers integrate multiple areas. STEM education involves skills like robotics, coding, engineering, and higher math. The subjects may be taught using traditional methods, or they may be taught using computers, toys, basic robots, or gaming.

How can parents help?

- STEM education can take place at home or on family trips, through trips to museums, summer camps, or home projects.
- STEM toys help keep children, both male and female, interested in the STEM fields. Kids enjoy teaching a robot to move about by learning lines of computer code. Science kits, coding kits, certain video games, building kits, even basic building blocks and play dough are great ways to stimulate problem-solving and critical thinking!
- It is important that parents and taxpayers understand the importance of STEM education for children. Keeping our classrooms well-equipped with resources and tools helps ensure every child has every opportunity to explore possible career paths or hobbies that will enrich lives.