

# STEM

News  
Spring 2016  
Volume I, Issue I



Science



Technology



Engineering



Math

## STEM Summer Camps

The STEM Department will support campuses in offering 34 different STEM-Based Inquiry Camps during Summer 2016. Students will participate in real-world, hands-on activities that will focus on STEM-related coursework and careers. The STEM Summer Camps will support the district's goal of providing quality co-curricular and extracurricular opportunities for students to participate in real-world challenges, allowing them to solve problems through engaging, STEM-related hands-on investigations, creations, experiments, and engineering tasks.

The following camps will be featured this summer:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Electricity
- Forensic Science
- Inventors
- Mathematics
- Robotics
- Physics
- Rockets
- Coding and Robotics
- Science

Please visit [www.dallasisd.org/STEM](http://www.dallasisd.org/STEM) for more information.

## Astronomy and Physics in Middle School

For the first time in Dallas ISD's history, middle school students had the opportunity to earn high school credit in either

Astronomy or Physics. Nineteen middle school



campuses offered Astronomy for high

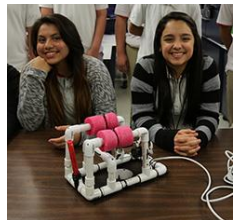
school credit and 14 middle school campuses offered Physics for high school credit. Approximately 2,100 eighth graders will enter high school next year with one advanced science credit that will count towards any endorsement they choose as freshmen.

## Robotics Competition

Winnetka and Caillet Elementary Schools and Travis Middle School qualified to compete in the International VEX IQ World Champion event in Louisville, Kentucky.



The Dallas Regional SeaPerch underwater robotics competition sponsored by the US Navy was held at Loos Natatorium with over 300 people in attendance.



Twenty teams from the Dallas ISD as well as district teams from Irving, Flower Mound, and other Dallas area schools, competed. Two teams from Stockard Middle School and one from Hillcrest High School qualified for the SeaPerch National Challenge in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

## Partnership with Graff Chevrolet

The STEM Math and Science departments partnered with Graff Chevrolet to develop and create videos for students, teachers and the community about the math and science

Dallas Independent School District



## In this Issue

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STEM Summer Camps

Astronomy and Physics in Middle School

Robotics Competition

Partnership with Graff Chevrolet

Math Olympiad

District Science Fair

Programming and Robotics in Middle School

Department News

Astronomical Observatory and Planetarium

Digital Media Fair

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What will you explore, build, or create today?

Please visit us at [www.dallasisd.org/STEM](http://www.dallasisd.org/STEM).

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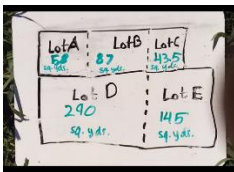
Math

involved in constructing bridges. The focus is to get students excited about STEM and how to build such a massive structure in the real world. We will collaborate with our STEM media team to interview some of the engineers and architects on the Margaret McDermott Bridge project.



## Math Olympiad

Math Olympiad was an innovative competition that empowered students to be math teachers, video producers, actors and artists - all at the same time.



With over 80 entries from elementary, middle and high schools, the Math Olympiad event was geared at getting students excited about math while giving them the opportunity to hone their communication and creativity skills.

## District Science Fair

The Dallas ISD Science Fair Competition, held at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, experienced a 76% increase in students who participated in the science fair, with a 262% increase in students eligible to advance to the Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair (DRSEF) compared to 2015. A student from the Townview School of Science and Engineering placed 4th at the DRSEF in the Biomedical and Health

Sciences senior division category with her project titled: A Novel Method for Early Detection of Arteriosclerosis.



The district science fair also provided students with the opportunity to be interviewed by UTSW medical students and to discuss their research in a science community setting.

## Programming and Robotics in Middle School

Two new middle school elective courses were created to give students the opportunity to learn about robotics and programming. Across the district, 33 middle school campuses offered Introduction to Robotics and 27 middle school campus offered Introduction to Programming. These STEM courses help students learn how to not only use technology, but also create with it.

## Department News

The STEM Educational Technology Department is transitioning to the STEM Computer Science and Technology (CST) Department. The name change is aligned to the Computer Science content areas we support along with service to Technology Applications. The name change is exciting as it shows Dallas ISD's commitment to bringing equitable Computer Science experiences to our students.

## Astronomical Observatory and Planetarium

The Environmental Education Center (EEC) completed construction of a state of the art astronomical observatory and planetarium that brings Earth and Space and Astronomy course content alive for students. Students and teachers have the opportunity to use various telescopes, binoculars, a planetarium, and other astronomical equipment at the EEC to view the moon, solar system objects, and a variety of deep space objects including nebulae, star clusters, and binary stars.



## Digital Media Fair

The digital media fair competition, also known as Tech Fest, was developed by the Health & Physical Education Department to foster an appreciation for healthy lifestyle choices along with an interest in educational technologies that could lead to a possible career in a STEM-related pathway. Over 400 digital projects were submitted by students in all grade levels! Winning submissions were displayed at STEM Day 2016.