STEM Happens

Want to play a piano made of bananas? Explore the STEM behind Hollywood's Zombie Apocalypse? Hear astrophysicist and pop-culture icon, Dr Neil DeGrasse Tyson, speak? Have your own ideas for a fun hands-on STEM activity to share? Whether you want to attend or host an activity, mark your calendars for a FREE night of STEM on October 29th!

Location: Drake University, Olmsted Center, Parents' Hall

Agenda: 4:30p-5p: Registration and Pizza
5p-5:10p: Opening remarks from Dr. Tyson
5:10p-6:15p: Free family-friendly festival of hands-on STEM targeted for middle school students and their families

Registration Due October 18th:
Host an activity
Participant registration and permission form

BONUS! Festival participants will receive passes for preferential seating at Dr. Tyson's free public lecture at 7pm at Drake's Knapp Center.

October is Harvest time for Ag in the Classroom
Wallace Elementary 4th graders have been waiting all summer to harvest the corn and soybeans in their Agriculture in the Classroom Learning Test Plot. They planted the 30' x 30' plot

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Upcoming Events

Make Oct 14th Pizza night and help support a SC FRC Team!
Submit an Event
Access DefinedSTEM today!

You can get involved!
4th graders harvest the corn they planted last spring as 3rd graders. As 4th graders, they harvest their crop while learning about Iowa Agriculture and harvest technology. Other grades use the Learning Test Plot Project to study insects, soils, measurement, data collection and genetics. There are test plots at Wallace, Horizon, Beaver Creek, Lawson, Jordan Creek, and St. Theresa's Elementary schools in Polk County. The project is supported by Polk County Farm Bureau to promote agricultural literacy. Follow the progress of the Learning Test Plots on Facebook and Twitter.
Facebook: Polk County Agriculture in the Classroom 
Twitter: @WallyCornPlant and @GeorgeSoybean

St. Theresa's "We've been STEMed!"

Observing a frog in a student-created habitat

STEM Scale-Up programs are transforming classrooms at St. Theresa's School in Des Moines. Ms. Ronda McCarthy's 4th graders are exploring Carolina's STEM Curriculum, while Mr. Justin Gill's 8th graders are learning design and modeling with Project Lead The Way - Gateway to Technology. "I enjoy this. I'm actually really enjoying this"

buffet, and the team receives $1!
When: October 14

Spread the word about your Fall STEM EVENTS!

Add them to the South Central STEM Calendar!

Submit your STEM event here!

The entire South Central Iowa Region has been awarded Defined STEM as a scale-up program.

This online resource provides common core standards-aligned performance tasks, literacy tasks, and real-world video to enable students see the relevance of what they are learning.

Defined STEM is available to formal and non-formal educators in South Central Iowa. Contact Brad Furber (brad_furber@definedlearning.com)
I overheard one eighth grader say as she worked on a lamp for a bedroom scaled to one-third actual size. "My parents think [the STEM class] is awesome. They can't believe we're doing engineering in 8th grade" a young lady shared. "We've been STEMed!" laughed principal, Ms. Ellen Stemler.

Real-world connections in CASE keep students coming back for more.
During a recent visit to Matt Eddy's CASE classroom, a theme began to emerge as South East Polk's juniors and seniors explained why they elect to take CASE classes year after year. "They don't use dixie cups at Pioneer" One student, who wants to own his own carpentry business shared "When I sell someone a cabinet, they don't ask me how I made it. [Customers ask] Is it strong? Is it sturdy? Does it look nice? That's how it is in this class. The product is what is important." Students continue to take the CASE courses as electives for the real-world relevance.

Mr. Eddy has used the CASE curriculum for years. He used his Iowa STEM Scale-Up grant to expand the school's CASE curriculum to offer the Animal and Plant Biotechnology course. The career interests in the CASE Biotech classroom range from carpentry entrepreneurs to pre-medicine.

Events

Powerful Partnerships in STEM educator workshop
STEM teachers across the state have an exciting opportunity this fall. The Science Teaching Section of the Iowa Academy of Science (ISTS) & the Iowa Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM), in cooperation with regional STEM hub managers and the Governor's STEM Council, are inviting you to be a part of a professional development course that will help bridge the gap between WANTING to create industry partnerships in your area and actually DOING it. We recognize the time teachers have is taken up by many, many obligations, so this focused course is designed to teach you the strategies to obtain your unique login and start using this resource that the SC Hub purchased for you!

Are you on fire for STEM?
Be a role model. Share your STEM skills and story in your community.
Want to share your STEM skills and story in your community? Go to the SC STEM Hub website and click "Find a Scale-Up near you!" for the list of schools awarded ‘13-’14 Scale-Up programs. Contact a school in your community to see how you can help. You will also find a calendar of STEM events, and other ways to get involved!
necessary to create meaningful partnerships with local business and industry in your area.

Using a collaborative learning model, teachers who show interest in being a part of this professional development course will be supported through the entire process of engaging a local industry partner and maintaining a meaningful relationship during the 2013-14 school year. Interested teachers will be provided with tools to help their students and industry partners make the most of their newly-created Powerful Partnership.

Participants can opt for 1.0 license renewal credit through Heartland AEA or 1.0 EDEX graduate credit from Drake University and are required to attend/participate in 1) the ICTM-ISTS Fall Conference on October 23rd, 2) two face-to-face meetings and 3) two online webinars. All meetings will take place outside of the work day and 100% attendance (in-person or virtual) is required.

Sound like something you’d like to be a part of? Preliminary registration is happening now! Spots are limited to 5 teachers per STEM hub region, so use this link to sign up now:  [http://goo.gl/LiimFS](http://goo.gl/LiimFS)

For more information email Eric Hall, ISTS Chair, at [eric.hall@dmschools.org](mailto:eric.hall@dmschools.org) or Dr. Kris Kilibarda at [kilibardak@central.edu](mailto:kilibardak@central.edu)

**Don't miss these upcoming STEM events!**

- **Oct 18**  [SC STEM Advisory Board Meeting](mailto:), Ottumwa
- **Oct 19**  [SCI Girls-Only PJ Party](mailto:), Des Moines
- **Oct 23**  [ICTM-ISTS Fall Conference](mailto:), Des Moines
- **Oct 29**  [iExplore STEM Festival](mailto:), Des Moines
- **Oct 29**  [Lecture by Neil deGrasse Tyson](mailto:), Des Moines
- **Nov 2**  [FTC Regional Qualifier](mailto:), West Des Moines
- **Nov 4-5**  [ISCA (School Counselors) Conference](mailto:), Des Moines
- **Nov 8-10**  [Environmental Issues Instruction](mailto:), Pleasant Hill
- **Nov 15**  [SCI Girls Meals with Mentors](mailto:), Des Moines
- **Nov 18**  [SC STEM Advisory Board Meeting](mailto:), Des Moines

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