



Elementary School District 159 is empowering students as future leaders in our global society through STEM. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) provides the tools to engage students in authentic problem based learning. Through the application of STEM principles, students are encouraged to be critical thinkers, problem solvers and innovators. STEM learning moves students from rote-textbook learning, towards the application of real-world knowledge and skills. The teaching and learning within STEM encourages students to design solutions for today and for our future generations through analysis and innovation. STEM learning encourages creativity and critical thinking. At Elementary School District 159, STEM education will provide a foundation for the development of our future leaders.

STEM in Elementary School District #159:

As a part of our innovative learning process, Elementary School District 159 is in a partnership with the South Cook Mathematics Initiative in an effort to improve teaching and learning of mathematics in grades 6th – 8th.

Colin Powell's Underwater Robotics Club has demonstrated success in addressing the engineering demands of design and function through underwater robotics competitions sponsored by MATE and the Shedd Aquarium over the past four years. The team has placed in the top three, three of the last four years, earning a 1st place in their second year, a 2nd place in their third, and a 1st place finish last year, in April 2015. Through participation in the Underwater Robotics Club, students gain mastery in buoyancy, electrical circuitry, engineering design, and teamwork. This award-winning program has expanded into 5th grade during the 2015-2016 school year.

Colin Powell Middle School will host the first of many STEM Career Day on May 10, 2016. Representatives from various STEM fields will be present to explain and demonstrate to the 6th – 8th grade students of Elementary School District 159 how STEM can be the pathway to success in their futures. Student will hear, see, discuss and experience why STEM is so STEMtastic!

Elementary School District will begin implementation of a new science and/or STEM curriculum during the 2015-2016/2016-2017 school years. A new science curriculum will help build the foundation from which the STEM component will blossom and grow.

More information on STEM education can be found on the websites listed below.

- STEM Education Coalition: <http://www.stemedcoalition.org/>
- Girls and STEM: Girls Inc.: <http://www.girlsinc.org/>
- U.S. Department of Education and STEM: <http://www.ed.gov/stem>
- Get Caught Engineering: <http://www.getcaughtengineering.com/>