

STEM 2019-2020 at The Bridges Academy

Mr. Tyler Kaufman

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New to the school this year, the STEM program. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. We welcome you to the ever-changing world of world of technology. This classroom is open to kindergarten through eighth grade, soon introducing pre-kindergarten to the program. I look forward to an exciting and fulfilling classroom experience. This is a very hands-on curriculum. Each grade level will be working on age appropriate projects.

The goal of this class is to introduce students to the various aspects and combinations of the STEM world. This will be accomplished through completing engineer design challenges and collaborating with fellow classmates and other teachers in the school.

How does this work?

Each unit taught will be comprised of goal-oriented projects where students work together to complete various tasks as they work through the engineer design process. Students will need to plan and ask questions to get to the end goal. Each project design needs to be approved by the teacher and the construction along the way will be overseen as well. The hands-on experience will always be in play.

Aspects of STEM that might be covered throughout the school year based on age level will be:

- **S** (science)- animals, earth science, electricity, physics (mass and weight, gravity, friction), chemistry, forensics, weather, greenhouse
- **T** (technology)- 3D printing, coding, digital citizenship and internet safety, film making, robotics, weather forecast station

- **E** (engineering)- building and creating various projects, improving and assembling ideas
- **M** (mathematics)- measuring, comparing, graphing numbers, finding patterns, solving problems

We are not constricted into a certain curriculum for this class therefore I encourage the students offer creative suggestions that he or she may want to study and investigate within the school year.

Grades to the various projects will be based on effort in the group, participation, questions, and cooperation within their respected groups. Grades are not affected by end result of the project.

I am looking forward to having a year filled with challenge, creativity, and peaked interest in these fields.

As always, if you or your children have any concerns, please feel free to contact me to address the issues if any, good or bad.

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