



Bemis Grant to the AASD Adds to STEM Options for Students

Giving students early experiences into the worlds of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) helps students learn to feel comfortable seeking solutions to new problems, connecting classroom lessons to the world around them, and discovering how to employ critical thinking.

Through the generosity of the Bemis Foundation, North High School, Lincoln, Edison, and McKinley elementary schools have been awarded PLTW implementation grants totaling \$37,500, to implement elementary **PLTW LAUNCH** and high school **PLTW Computer Science** programming. Project Lead the Way STEM programs have been implemented in the District since 2002 starting with Tesla Engineering Charter School.

The grants are targeted to support participation fees, teacher training, technology (laptops, and iPads), materials and supplies. Principals and ACI staff support the collaborative effort of these teams with the end goal of systematically expanding **PLTW LAUNCH** to all elementary schools and **PLTW Computer Science** to all high schools in the future.

Bemis Company understands the need for highly skilled technology professionals. Kevin Steinhilber, Chief Academic Officer of the AASD, says that demand for these skills has grown and the AASD strives to provide a robust experience for students. Business and industry partners to the AASD say that students who have these skills are the types of workers they need.

PLTW LAUNCH aligns to district standards for mathematics, English language arts, science technology and engineering standards. PLTW supports current AASD elementary science curriculum and materials.

PLTW Computer Science develops computational thinking, generates excitement about career paths that utilize computing, and introduces professional tools that foster creativity and collaboration. Through the PLTW curriculum, students will learn Information Technology skills suited for multiple fields and careers.

Lee Allinger, Superintendent of the AASD, says that “we have students that find ways to get engaged in STEM outside of our current offerings, and we’re excited to find a home for those kids within our schools and curriculum.”

PLTW will help the students to understand modern IT career pathways without limiting them to just coding classes or typing classes. The idea is to prepare kids for future high skill, high wage jobs while making it a seamless fit with current requirements and curriculum.

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