

# The Kennedy STEM Spotlight

September 4, 2015

## STEM Events at Kennedy Middle School

### TSA-Technology Student Association

This year, students will meet twice a month and then soon once a week to prepare for some fun competitions. Students will work individually or as a team in areas such as agriculture and biotechnology, website design, dragster design, flight challenge, 3D modeling, film technology, and many more! **Thanks to Mr. Fernandez, Ms. Myers, and Ms. Houtsma** for all of their hard work in starting this club.

Last year, our students competed in Regional and State Competitions and won 8 medals and 6 trophies! Also, they competed in the NASCAR P.I.T. Crew Challenge among 16 talented CMS schools and ended up as a finalist. We won a trip to the Coca-Cola 600 race last year!

Good luck to our TSA team members!

### Green Team

It is long overdue, but Kennedy Middle School finally has a Green Team! Thanks to **Mr. Wardwell** for organizing this much needed club.

Right now, the Green Team is made of seventh and eighth graders and will soon be opened up to our sixth grade students.

This awesome group of students will participate in environmental awareness activities, labs, and environmental field trips throughout the school year. They are responsible for recycling bin pick up from every room in our school.



### Science and Engineering Fair

Calling all scientists and engineers! On December 16, Kennedy will host a Science and Engineering Fair. This fair is designed to inspire students to conduct independent research and experience the excitement of inquiry-based science.

Students will choose a science or engineering topic they are interested in, do a little research about it, and develop a question they want answered. They then work through the scientific method or engineering process which involves experimenting or building something. Their hard work is presented through a final report and display board.

***Interested? Sign up by Sunday, 9/13!***

***[tinyurl.com/kennedyfair](http://tinyurl.com/kennedyfair)***

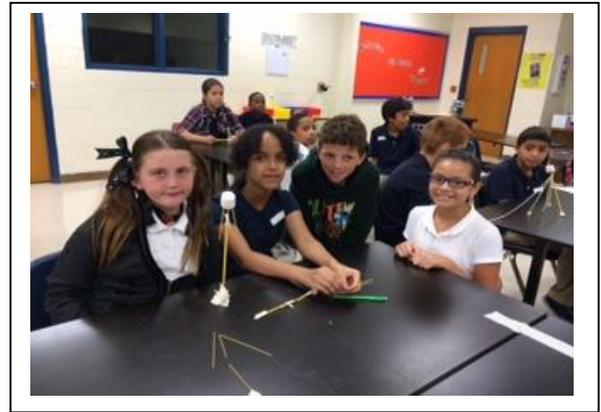


## Check out this classroom STEM spotlight!

### Engineers in the Making

During the first two weeks of school, **Ms. Kelly's** sixth grade science classes learned what it was like to be real engineers! They had a lot of fun building structures to hold up a designated load using only spaghetti noodles, string, and marshmallows. In order to do this, students learned all about the engineering design process and followed it to plan, design, and build their idea. Then, from all of the many types of engineering jobs, students chose a specific field they were interested in such as robotic, mechanical, chemical, automotive, etc. Students researched what people in that field do, the required education needed to obtain that career, and interesting facts about the job. They presented their facts in brochure booklets along with illustrations.

What a great way to open up students' minds to so many different career opportunities!



## STEM in the news!

### Farming in the Ocean!

An agricultural experiment called Nemo's Garden is literally taking farming to a new level! It is happening about 20-feet below the ocean's surface! The endeavor is the product of Italian entrepreneur and scuba diving lover Sergio Gamberini. He wanted to combine two things he is passionate about—scuba diving and farming. This is all happening without disturbing the marine ecosystem.

But if the plants are deep down in the ocean, how can plants survive without sunlight?

Gamberini's team hypothesize that the high temperature, humidity and carbon dioxide may be compensating for the low amount of light.

**Photo of a garden environment under water.**



## Tell Me Something Good!

### Robotics Club Funding!

We are excited to announce that TE Connectivity is awarding a \$2000 grant to Kennedy Middle School! They are sponsoring our much anticipated First Robotics team! Many students participated in the First Lego League (FLL) in elementary school. In partnership with TE Connectivity, we are helping these students continue their robotic journey by starting a First Tech Challenge (FTC) team. We are so grateful and fortunate to have TE Connectivity's support and partnership so that we can continue inspiring students when it comes to technology, collaboration, and teamwork! More information about joining the robotics club will be shared soon!



### Lights, Camera, Action!



On **Wednesday, September 23**, Wilson from local news channel WCCB will be at Kennedy Middle School highlighting all the cool things happening at our school!

He will be broadcasting live at our school and will feature staff members and some of our own awesome students! We will be featured in 8 segments from **5:20-8:40 am**.

## Kennedy's STEM Habits of Thinking

We encourage our students to apply these habits of thinking in all of their classrooms.

These are also skills and habits that people from a variety of careers exhibit on a daily basis.

**Inquire**

**Collaborate**

**Investigate**

**Innovate**

**Design**

**Reflect**

## Upcoming Events

September 13-deadline to sign up for Science and Engineering Fair

September 15-first Science and Engineering Fair meeting (during PL)

September 16-17-Chemistry Professor visit during PL (sixth grade)

September 18-Chemistry Professor visit during PL (eighth grade)

September 21-Meteorologist from WCNC John Wendel presentation for seventh grade

September 23-Wilson's World from WCCB at Kennedy!