



Jack Anderson Elementary

Vision:

Jack Anderson Elementary is a joyful learning community where students, staff, parents, and community members rally to continue our legacy of excellence.

Mission:

Jack Anderson Elementary is committed to enriching the lives of students by providing top-notch instruction with a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) emphasis, empowering staff leadership, nurturing a collaborative culture with shared norms and values, deprivatizing professional practice, celebrating successes, and fostering a climate of genuine support.

STEM Goal:

Jack Anderson Elementary will develop STEM literate students who define problems, problem-solve, test, and make improvements both individually and in collaborative teams and using science, technology, engineering, & mathematics.

STEM Leadership Team

Shared leadership is vital to the success of our STEM program and has ignited a common vision for STEM Integration in our school. This team made up of staff, parents, and community stakeholders meets monthly.

STEM Seminars

Students engage in a full immersion STEM Seminar quarterly. The seminar is an entire day dedicated to STEM problem-solving, including research, planning, discussion, testing, redesign, final presentation, and evaluation in the STEM Lab. Students work in teams to solve real-world problems using the Engineering Design Process.

STEM-'task'-ic Fridays

Each Friday students are given a school-wide STEM challenge. These fun problem-solving tasks build teamwork and foster a sense of community within the classroom as students engage in creative and out-of-the-box thinking. Teachers serve as STEM coaches encouraging students to justify their thinking and collaborate as multiple solution paths are explored.

STEM Integration

Teachers are committed to make cross-curricular STEM connections by highlighting STEM vocabulary and planning activities that require students to become independent thinkers and problem-solvers.

STEM Lab & STEM Outdoor Classroom

Our STEM Lab and outdoor classroom are dedicated spaces for teachers to encourage discovery, critical thinking, hands-on problem-solving activities. The STEM outdoor classroom provides for at least two classrooms of students to utilize the open-air space at the same time.

STEM Community Partners

Our community has enthusiastically partnered with JAE to support our STEM initiatives. If you have an interest to support STEM at JAE, we ask that you contact Jackandersonpto@gmail.com or email Erin Thurston, STEM Teacher. erin.thurston@sumnerschools.org JAE celebrates the power of partnerships!

STEM Parent Shares & STEM Speakers

Throughout the school year, parents and community members are invited to share how they use science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in their workplaces or within hobbies. These thirty-minute presentations are so enjoyable and help broaden our students' vision as they dream about their futures. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's classroom teacher to arrange a time to share.

STEM Exhibit Hall

Students enjoy sharing their STEM projects with parents, family, and friends. STEM Seminars and STEM-task-ic Friday Challenges are on display in our STEM Exhibition Hallway. Parent and community members are invited to tour and view STEM projects that are on exhibit.

STEM Student Enrichment Opportunities (Free of Charge)

- **STEM Family Nights, K-5th Graders:** We have partnered with the Adventure Science Center and will host K-2 STEM Family Night on October 27th and 3-5 STEM Family Night on February 2nd. Our goal is to provide parent-student hands-on STEM experiences where families explore STEM Stations together. This is a special night of fellowship for JAE families sponsored by our PTO.
- **STEM In The Gym, K-5th Graders:** Each Tuesday & Thursday morning (8:00-8:30), JAE students can't wait to get to school to watch STEM demonstrations projected on a big screen in the gym. Students from around the nation showcase their STEM thinking & problem-solving.
- **Robotics Club, 2nd-5th Graders:** In this after school club, students learn the functions of Cubelets: robotic cubes, each with a different function, that link together to create mobile robots and logic constructions.
- **Tinkercad Lab, 4th & 5th Graders:** Jack Anderson has a Makerbot 3-D printer in our STEM Lab that has the ability to "print" with plastic filament to make 3-Dimensional models. Students gather on Friday mornings to learn how to tinker and design at home using the Tinkercad App, then print using our 3-D printer.
- **4-H Club, 4th & 5th Graders:** The mission of the Tennessee 4-H is to provide research-based extension educational experiences that will stimulate young people to gain knowledge, develop life skills, and form positive attitudes to prepare them to become capable, responsible, and compassionate adults. At JAE, our 4-H challenges have a STEM focus.
- **Media Club, 5th Graders:** Students produce the morning news. Enrichment opportunities include serving as anchors, camera operators, directors, and producers of the news using green screen technology.
- **Recycling Club, 5th Graders:** Students learn about being good stewards of the environment by reducing, recycling, and repurposing materials. The majority of STEM challenges use recyclable materials. Fifth grade students volunteer to gather recyclable paper and requested STEM recyclables once a week from classrooms. Additionally, they help advertise the Earth Day Book Exchange, an annual event targeted at reusing childhood literature.

STEM Professional Development

Our goal is to have a staff that continually grows their knowledge of best practices to integrate STEM across the curriculum. JAE teachers are leaders within the STEM community having presented at the Future of Education Conference 2016 and the 2016 Tennessee STEM Innovation Summit.

To arrange a STEM JAE campus visit, contact Erin Thurston, STEM Teacher:
erin.thurston@sumnerschools.org Web: www.jackandersonelem.com
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