

STEMS News

The Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics School
at North Springs Elementary



Dr. Sally Catoe, STEMS Lead Teacher

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CONGRATULATIONS to our newest National Board Certified teachers, Mrs. Conklin (1st grade) and Mrs. Phipps (2nd grade)! We now have 3 of these distinguished teachers directing our STEMS classes (Mrs. Andrieski already had her certification). Board certification is a long and difficult process, and it is truly a recognition of excellence.

Lead Teacher requests:

1. I will be presenting a display about our program to introduce STEMS to interested parents at the Magnet Fair the evening of December 2nd. I would love to have 1 or 2 parents to join me in talking to others about the program and what it offers children. Email me if you are interested.

2. I am looking for some parent remarks about our program to include in our brochure and on our web site—your name does not have to be included! Please email your comments directly to me.

Thank you so much for your wonderful support!

Focus Topic: “What is technology?” When you and your child examine tools of technology, be sure to ask questions! What else might work? What other things might this be used for? What could be added or subtracted? How could it be rearranged? What is the opposite of this tool? Could it be made smaller or larger?

STEMS Activities: *Mark your calendars!* We will have another STEMS Family Night on December 15th at 7:00pm. The robotics team from Blythewood High School will give us a demonstration of what they have developed. If you know a family interested in applying for STEMS, please invite them to join us.

Student quote: “I made a ship. I used LEGO pieces. I used long and short pieces. It has a shooter that gets its energy from a magnet ray, and that’s how it goes back in time. It is really cool!”
~Christopher Thompson from Mrs. Conklin’s first grade class



Young Inventor of the Week: Katie Harding (age 5) invented a new kind of umbrella to help her with a problem. When she left for school in the morning, it was still dark, and she accidentally stepped into mud puddles. To solve her problem, she asked her mother to help her attach a flashlight to the handle of her umbrella. Her invention, which she called the “Mud-Puddle Spotter,” won a \$250 prize in a national invention contest. If you could invent a new kind of umbrella, what would it look like? ~ source: *Weather and Me: teacher’s guide* by Debby Deal