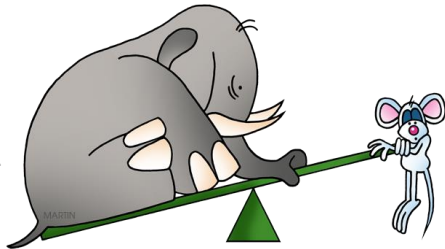


Academic Honesty

We do not take “tests” in STEM; however, some projects are graded as test grades. It is expected that any work completed in this class is a product of your own mind and effort. If someone else is doing the work for you, but you turn it in as yours, that is cheating. Cheating will result in negative consequences.

If parents help with cutting tools, etc. that is perfectly acceptable, but they should NOT be doing all of your work for you. We’re not grading your parents. If projects are done by adults at home, you can’t expect to get a grade for something you didn’t do.



Make Up Work

As all of our work is project-based, you will have ample time to make up missed assignments. We will place handouts and presentations online in Google Classroom, but the daily work will be available for you to get caught up during tutorials or you may take it home to get caught up after an absence.

Extra Help

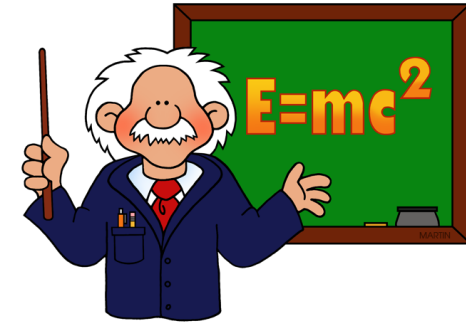
If you need extra help or have concerns, speak to either instructor as soon as possible, so we can set a time either before or after school.

Conclusion

We want you to be successful in STEM. You are encouraged to participate in class and ask questions when you do not understand. We look forward to an exciting and productive year!



Brochure text based on Dr. Bailer's Science Lessons used with permission. Clip art by Phillip Martin. Visit his site for more wonderful images.



Welcome to STEM

At
Bland Middle School

Science, Technology, Engineering
and Mathematics made FUN!

Teachers: Mrs. J. Rhea and
Mrs. D. Chapman

E-mail: julie.rhea@blandisd.org and
dena.chapman@blandisd.org

School phone: 903-776-2239

We hope you have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. The following information will help you to succeed in STEM this year.

It will be a fun and exciting journey if you follow the rules and open your mind to the endless possibilities in a class that covers a wide range of topics and materials.

Curriculum

Major topics of study this year include:

- 1st nine weeks – Safety, Ethics, Buoyancy, Newton’s Laws, and basic Physics and Engineering
- 2nd nine weeks – Programming, Coding and Robotics
- 3rd nine weeks – Mathematics with Area, Volume and building to Scale
- 4th nine weeks – Space, Energy, and Machines (Simple and Rube Goldberg)

Philosophy

STEM is more than just the sum of its parts (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). It is a way of thinking and using creativity to explore topics, identify new ways to solve problems, and developing solutions both individually and as part of a team. It is developing tools that help us think critically and to improve the way we manipulate tools as we study the world around us. It encourages us to explore our ideas and find new ways to make things work. Some may think that STEM will be too hard, but you don’t have to be in the top 10% to think creatively. STEM often quickly becomes everyone’s favorite class. We believe that everyone learns by doing. The lessons and activities in this classroom are created to provide you with multiple opportunities for learning, exploring and creating in a hands-on, minds-on classroom.

We do not use a textbook, but you can keep up with our assignments through Google Classroom, Remind 101 and the STEM webpage. The sign-up sheets for Remind.com have been sent home and links will be made available on the web page.

Materials

During the first week of school you are expected to bring the following items: **1 Composition book and 1 pen or pencil to use during class**

Donations: Often STEM projects require odds and ends and little extras (empty water bottles, shoe boxes, leftover yarn, etc.) We always try to help the environment by practicing the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle method. If you would like to contribute spare bits and bobs that might be used to create planes, cars, and rocket ships in our fun activities, we welcome the extra help. Please email either teacher if you think of something you think you might like to donate to improve your child’s experience in class.

Conference Times

Conference time for Mrs. Rhea is 12:05-12:50 pm daily. Mrs. Chapman’s is from 9:57 to 10:42 am daily. Please make an appointment through the school office or through our email.

Classroom Expectations

You will not do anything that will get in the way of your learning and/or the learning of others. You are expected to participate in laboratories, activities and class projects. You are expected to follow **all** safety rules during laboratories and our building sessions. We expect each child to be responsible for the construction of their own designs.

Our Classroom Rules

1. Be in your seat with all materials when the tardy bell rings.
2. Throw gum away as you enter the classroom.
3. Pay attention to the instructors as they present the activities, guidelines and grading rubrics. Ask questions if you don’t understand.
4. When working in pairs or groups, please remember to treat others as you want to be treated. Be considerate and politely help one another, never mocking someone else’s ideas.
5. Once the 5-minute warning is called, begin cleaning up your area and storing your projects in the approved and designated areas. Wait in your seat until the teacher dismisses the class.

Grading System

Rubrics for projects will be given to students when each one is assigned. Participation is a large part of your grade! Please make sure you’re working.

Projects

Projects are assigned throughout the year, giving you the opportunity to demonstrate what you have learned in a creative way. Typically, you can expect to complete at least one major project per quarter. Most projects are to be completed at school, but occasionally you might want to take it home for extra help or to get extra time.