



Ben Franklin Academy (BFA) is a John Irwin School of Excellence and the Core Knowledge STEAM School of Choice in Douglas County—below are some highlights about our fantastic school, but we encourage interested parents to stop by for a tour Tuesdays at 9 a.m. now through March 31 (except March 17 when we are on break, or during delays/closures), as well as April 7 and May 5. Be sure to bring your Driver's License!

At BFA, our mission is to develop students from preschool through eighth grade who are well-read, scientifically curious and civically engaged. That's why we provide daily instruction in core classes-science, math, social studies and language arts-as well as weekly instruction in technology, art, music, physical education and science lab. Middle school students (grades 6-8) also have core classes daily, as well as STEAM lab, Physical Education, Life Skills, Technology and Electives.

Students thrive at BFA because we focus on the success of individual students through the use of flexible ability grouping and differentiated instruction. And, we're proud that our rigorous curriculum, character education and STEAM focus ensure students are successful when they transition to high school.

Kids and parents aren't the only ones who appreciate Ben Franklin Academy--with a supportive administration, autonomy in the classroom and small class sizes-our staff and accredited teachers do as well! That's why we can boast about a 90 percent teacher retention rate, complimented by dedicated and professional support services staff, as well as two aids for each grade.

Here's more information about how we incorporate STEAM into our curriculum:

**Science** - Students learn complex material in an age appropriate way and their lessons are reinforced by weekly hands-on experiments which incorporate math, art, engineering, technology and inquiry into the scientific method. Our kids participate in Space Week, Earth Week, Engineering Week, Code Week,

Playground Physics, Science Fair, the STEAM Expo, Star Lab and a number of dissections.

**Technology** - The use of technology is incorporated into the very fabric of BFA- from state-of-the-art classroom technology, to the iPads and computers each student can access. Elementary students not only learn the basics of how to use a computer, typing skills and Google Applications, but they also focus on elements of computer science and coding. Middle school students gain hands-on experience in a variety of intersecting fields to encourage ingenuity, persistence and confidence, including digital photography, graphic design, 3D modeling/printing, electronics and more! And, beginning in fifth grade, students have access to their very own Chromebooks.

**Engineering** - Various engineering concepts are routinely integrated into BFA's curriculum. Additionally, elementary students complete a mini-engineering unit, and middle school students learn the basics of robotics, construct objects using 3D modeling software, and study software engineering through game design.

**Arts** - BFA's strong art curriculum engages the whole child and fosters high achievement in critical thinking, problem solving and collaborative learning. The music program offers a variety of opportunities for students to showcase their creativity and talent, such as musical performances in front of a live audience and introduction to instruments. Middle school kids have the opportunity to be involved in a full-scale musical production on our beautiful stage, be involved in our choir or take classes on drama/theatre.

**Math** - BFA primarily uses *Saxon Math* because its innovative, instructional approach breaks complex concepts into simpler increments that are easier to learn. Research shows that the *Saxon* approach has produced significantly higher levels of student learning.