

A STEAM-y Future

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The acronym S.T.E.A.M. is a part of nearly every conversation revolving around education today. Although fads come and go as quickly as the acronyms are created, this educational revolution is here to stay. There are plenty of reasons that incorporating Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math into the curriculum is important. The greatest reason that S.T.E.A.M. integration is imperative is that teachers today are responsible for preparing students for jobs that have not been created yet. It is with an open mind that we say goodbye to the "yes and no" answers, and embrace the "show me", "create it" and "explore" culture.

The Changeable Classroom

Even the youngest learners can climb aboard the S.T.E.A.M. train with an atmosphere that encourages innovation. S.T.E.A.M. and Science themed rugs carried by Flagship Carpets are long-lasting classroom accessories that encourages children to ask questions, discover and explore. Teachers can expand the S.T.E.A.M. themed classroom with portraits of inventors, authors, or artists to provide identifiable role models for curious minds.

Creating a versatile classroom is also important for hands-on learning. Mobile seating solutions such as 'Soft Seating Stools' or the 'Fidget Cubes' are comfortable and easy for young children to move themselves. Another key to a S.T.E.A.M. environment are interchangeable small tables that can be arranged to meet the needs of the lesson. Classroom versatility like this provides space needed for exploration and active learning.

Being equipped for S.T.E.A.M. based learning often includes lots of recycled materials and craft supplies. Bottles, paper towel rolls, glue, paint, and pipe cleaners are easy to keep track of with organizational solutions. This mobile space saving solution provides plenty of room for storage, as well as writing surfaces for added ingenuity. With organized supplies on

hand, it is easy to ignite a child's imagination with S.T.E.A.M. challenges such as building bridges and engineering wind driven boats.

Thinking Outside the Bubble Test

The most important element for integrating S.T.E.A.M. is the approach itself. The teacher's role is to provide the framework of the lesson and guide students along their journey. S.T.E.A.M. puts discovery into the hands of the students! When choice, experiments and challenges are given instead of bubble tests, the landscape of education completely changes. Equipped with the ideas and strategies absorbed through S.T.E.A.M. instruction, our youth will be empowered to embark on the unforeseen challenges of the tomorrow's careers.

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