

Ms. Mitchell's SMS MS STEM Newsletter



January 2025

Engineering Updates!

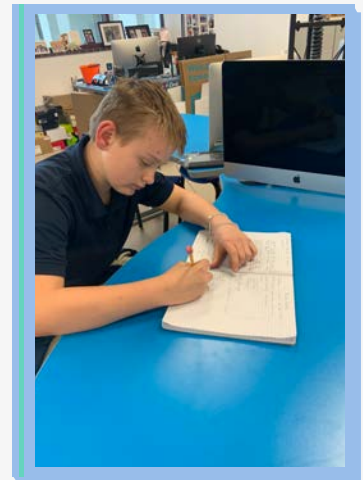
I am so thrilled to start off the New Year with your students! This month I am going to update you on the happenings in the classroom.

Parents, I am looking for speakers who have a career or background in engineering. If you do, and would be willing to talk with your student's class or one of the classes, please let me know! I will set up a day and time with you. My email is mmitchell@stmonicaschool.org.



SAVE the DATE! I will have a student showcase and STEM night on April 9, 2025. Times to be announced later.

6th Grade

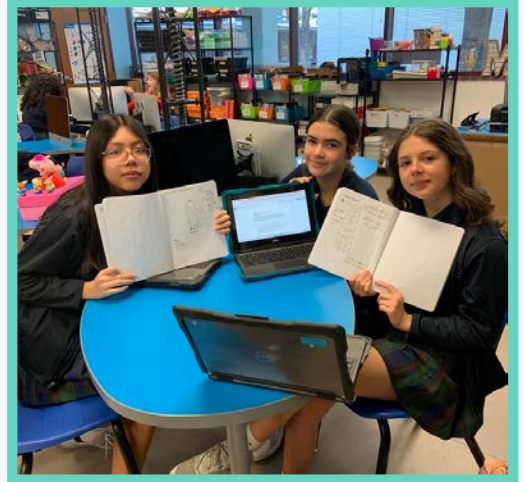


6th grade started this quarter completing Tinkercad Tutorials. Tinkercad is a website where students can design things in 3-D. Currently our students are researching the U.N's Sustainable Goal 15. "Life on Land". They chose a target goal to learn about. Once they have their research completed they will choose a biome (desert, tundra, grasslands, or forest) to design an ecosystem inside the biome. They will include their target goal information as well. Then design their biome on the 3-D platform using only shapes to create project. It will be impossible for me to print their biomes, but they will pick one of their designs and I will send to the 3-D printer. Pictures to follow next month!



7th Grade

We started the new year off with the topic "Salt Doesn't Melt Ice", students learned how salt actually makes winter streets safe. They learned the science of freezing point depression can be applied to any solution and that we are developing alternatives with fewer negative environmental consequences such as molasses and beet juice! Then we jumped into students using their understanding of heat transfer to design a container that will keep food war or cold for school lunches. Making sure students learned that heat is the transfer of energy. Their model container must be able to keep liquid or solid cold or hot for 20 minutes. They are currently building their prototypes.



8th Grade

This quarter the students stem project is called "Life Cycle Analysis". They have five different products (solar panel, wind turbine, electric car, computer, air condtioner) and they researched the product from cradle to grave. The creative assignment is to design a life cycle for that product explaining each step. They are transferring thie life cycle onto a . . . poster. The next challenge is to redesign the product to reduce its environmental impact. Once redesigned, they are to use Tinkercad to generate a 3-D design and hopefully go to print!



More photos from this past month: [our page](#)

