

GEORGIA LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOL TO WATCH THE STEM ACADEMY @ BARTLETT—VISITOR'S GUIDE

The STEM Academy @ Bartlett



2017-2018 School Statistics

Community: Chatham County
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: 7:40 am-2:40 pm
Student Demographics: 709 students
Hispanic: 7%
White: 52%
African American: 30%
Asian: 5%
American Indian: 0%
Multi-race: 6%
Male: 61%
Female: 39%
Free/Reduced Lunch: 52%
English Learners: <1%
Gifted: 63%

2014 CCRPI SCORE: 91.2
2015 CCRPI SCORE: 84.5
2016 CCRPI SCORE: 79.4
2017 CCRPI SCORE: 82.5

Designated in; 2017

Redesignated:

The STEM Academy @ Bartlett •
Savannah-Chatham County School District •
Savannah • Georgia •
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School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Students often collaborate in complex activities that were challenging, engaging, and stimulating. Teachers were actively involved in their classrooms, often serving as a facilitator of instruction while students were immersed in meaningful and relevant activities.
- 1:1 iPad school. iPads are issued to all students for use as tools to create content and engage in the learning process.

- The addition of the Research course supports the STEM focus as well as the level of academic rigor in the school
- Rubrics are used throughout the school and students self evaluate as well as evaluate peers based on the rubric. Students were observed interacting in the hall and in classrooms while using the rubric for providing feedback to each other.
- Teachers have developed multiple examples of integrated tasks, such as math activity that integrated art and design, or a Latin activity that integrated art
- The school offers several Aps classes including art, theater, Latin and band. Several other Aps offerings also support and extend the STEM focus of the school; this include Lego robotic, makers, film/broadcasting, GIS, and video game design.
- Accelerated curriculum at every grade level. Students are able to take high school course offerings in Algebra, Physical Science, 9th Comp/Lit, Economics, Biology, Engineering, Art and Design, and Latin.
- The EdCamp approach to faculty meetings is an exciting way to include all faculty members in targeted talks concerning instruction and strategies.
- Throughout the year, interdisciplinary and applications teachers work together to prepare for the year-end Grand Challenge, which is an interdisciplinary unit that involves all subjects.
- Vertical teaming meetings for teachers to look at gaps in learning and study data on individual students.

Developmental Responsiveness

- The curriculum is developmentally responsive as reflected by being challenging, exploratory, relevant, and integrated.
- Students have an outstanding capacity for choice and autonomy in their academics, with multiple levels of support from teachers.
- The LYP (Love Your People) character education program solidifies positive school culture.
- The advisement program is an addition support for students. Teachers serve as advisers and loop up with their students each year to provide continuous support and guidance.
- Teachers and counselors understand the unique academic demands on middle school students and provide guidance and support to address the specific needs of the students.
- The pervasive culture in the school is positive and exciting. The status quo is not acceptable and all adults work together to continue to refine and improve the learning experience.
- Students nominate their peers for Student of the Month based on the trait of the month. The Student of the Month have an opportunity to have lunch with administration to offer suggestions and provide voice for the student population.
- There are a wide variety of celebrations for students.
- High degree of collaboration among students and adults. This has benefited the entire learning process and culture of the school.
- School Council is an integral part of the decision-making process.

Social Equity

- All students are heterogeneously grouped for instruction, with the exception of the self-contained special education classes, that ensures a vibrant learning environment where all students have equal opportunities to be actively involved in their learning.
- The range of classes (Aps), clubs, and types of learning supports all students. Students have many opportunities to get involved with school activities through contests, clubs, sports, and more.

- The consistent use of agendas across the school help students keep track of their assignments and projects.
- The STEM Tour Bus is a traveling presentation that includes student ambassadors, teacher, and school counselor that travels to elementary schools to attract more students from underrepresented segments to the school.
- The All Girls Engineering Extravaganza is the school's effort to expose elementary aged girls to STEM concepts in an effort to generate interest and excitement in the school.
- Individualized approach to instruction
- Several structures are in place for struggling students. Interventions offered include: after-school and before-school tutorial, Lunch and Learn, and Instructional Focus.
- Students without home access to internet are able to submit assignments during early school and/or Lunch and Learn.
- Teachers are given multiple opportunities for peer observations and reflective notes to enhance their professional growth.
- Parents feel strongly they are an integral part of the school culture and are involved in meaningful

Organizational Supports

- The administrative team enacts an open door policy for students, faculty, staff, and community.
- The administrative team meets weekly with every team in the school.
- Teachers are supported in their efforts to build self-efficacy
- The shared leadership model is pervasive in the school and all members of the school community feel empowered to help move the school forward.
- The principal significantly impacts instruction and exercise of research-based best practices as the instructional leader.
- Teachers are involved in various committees and school wide initiatives that encourage them to utilize their knowledge and expertise.
- Flexible room arrangements provide students with multiple opportunities to learn in an environment that is comfortable for their varied learning styles. Sofas, large balls, rugs, gaming chairs, soft lighting, etc. are the norm.
- High level of collaboration among students and teachers.
- Several problem-based learning opportunities for students