

THE STEAM MACHINE



Mary Gage Peterson Elementary's Monthly STEAM Update

Peterson shines at Regional STEM Exhibition

This month, eleven middle school students competed in the Chicago Public Schools Regional STEM Exhibition. After placing in the top three at our Peterson STEM Exhibition in December, our students advanced their research projects by creating videos to highlight their research since the event was hosted virtually.

At the Virtual Regional STEM Awards Ceremony on Thursday, February 23, our Peterson students found out how their projects scored against those from students at other CPS schools in our region.

2023 Regional STEM Exhibition Results

8th Grade

Convenient Cooling by **Yusra Talaty & Julieta Moreno**, Gold*

7th Grade

What colors absorb the most heat? by **Caleb Adamji & Angelina Erickson**, Gold*

Does Color Affect Taste by **Violet Bramley**, Gold*

Does temperature of the air affect the burn rate of candles? by **Aminah Bha**, Silver

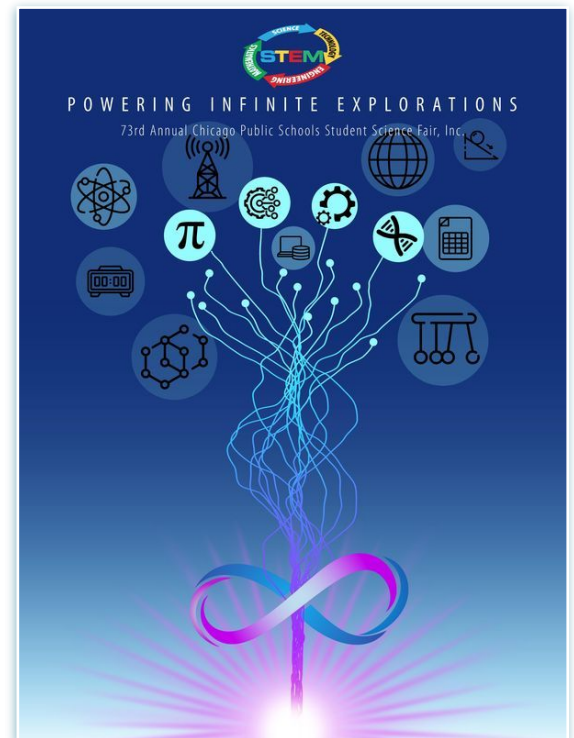
6th Grade

The Power of Music by **Fatimah Abubakar**, Gold

Judging Gelato by **Julia Korda**, Gold

Can Certain Liquids Make Iron Corrode Faster? by **Ryder Young**, Gold

Do Plants Use the Same Amount of Carbon Dioxide? by **Yasmine Jamoumi & Melissa Flores**, Bronze



***Angelina, Caleb, Julieta, Violet**, and **Yusra** will now move on to the City STEM Exhibition on March 17 to compete against students from all participating CPS schools for the chance to move on to the state-level competitions. Best of luck to all of our Peterson student researchers!



RACERS! START YOUR ENGINES!

NASCAR and Chicago Public Schools just announced a collaborative initiative that will engage and inspire more than 22,000 students with racing-themed STEM and STEAM learning experiences and curriculum. This month, all Peterson students, as well as CPS students from all 43 STEM and STEAM schools, will compete in an in-classroom design challenge culminating with the first-ever “STEAM Fest” in downtown Chicago on May 2. In addition, CPS and NASCAR will work together to develop a new STEM curriculum for eighth-grade students exploring fundamental science and engineering concepts within the sport, which will be finalized and introduced in middle schools during the 2023-2024 school year.

Our Peterson design challenge will take place on Thursday, March 16, where students will work in groups to design their own race helmets that address key elements including safety, communication, ventilation, and other technological innovations. The complexity of the challenge will vary depending on grade.

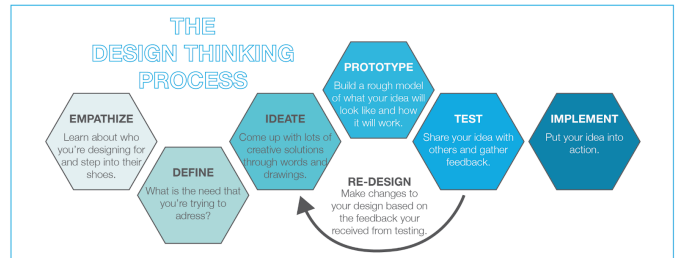
Our top-performing groups from grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8, as well as other top-performing groups from each of the other 42 schools, will earn invitations to STEAM Fest. These nearly 500 student finalists will then interact with NASCAR drivers, engineers and other industry STEM professionals at the Field Museum in the event’s championship round, where schools will be assigned a new NASCAR challenge and compete against each other to receive complimentary tickets to the Chicago Street Race Weekend this summer.

Racers, start your engines! Scan here to watch the NASCAR/CPS hype video to fuel up for the challenge with your students!



DESIGN THINKING WRAP-UP







































Middle school students in grades 6-8 received their Design Thinking badges after finishing up their exploration of the CPS Maker U Curriculum. The curriculum was designed by the Department of STEM to provide students with leveled learning opportunities across multiple disciplines. By starting with the Design Thinking course, students have explored how this critical-thinking process can lend itself to problem solving in future scenarios whether in class at Peterson, in high school, and beyond.



Student Name
Grade XX
I am a **LEVEL 3** design thinker at
Mary Gage Peterson Elementary School,
a Chicago Public Schools STEAM School.

As a part of concluding this learning, advisories earned badges to display their group’s work based on the progress of the majority of the students. Check out the final progress on the next page. Students also received individual digital badges and an email signature, pictured left, with directions outlining how students can add to the signature line of their email to showcase their hard work!

DESIGN THINKING SKILLS BADGES RESULTS

Jolly Jerboas Vaughn – 200 Grade 8	    
Red Lobsters Sanchez – 204 Grade 8	    
Motivated Meerkats Butterfield – 217 Grade 8	    
Paranormal Pigeons Metovic – 215 Grade 8	    
Brave Bloodhounds Reynolds – 208 Grade 7	   
Marvelous Monkeys Brady – 223 Grade 6	   
Ripsnortin' Ravens Angelle – 206 Grade 7	  
Crazy Chipmunks Mistry – 218 Grade 6	  
Gallant Gorillas MacWilliams – 221 Grade 6	
Loquacious Lynxes Bell – 212 Grade 6	
Rousing Red Wolves Christensen – 219 Grade 7	
Adamant Artichokes Ionita – 210 Grade 7	

SAVE THE DATE!

Peterson STEAM Night

Thursday, April 27

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Next month, we'll be hosting our annual STEAM Night on Thursday, April 27 from 5:00-7:00PM! At last year's STEAM Night, we had over 250 attendees and more than 15 different sessions. We need your help to make this year's event an even bigger success.

At STEAM Night, teachers and family volunteers host brief information or activity sessions for students about anything STEAM related. Please consider leading a session or connecting us with a friend or business who can help. If you're able to support our STEAM Night, please scan to fill out the form below.



STEAM CAREER SPOTLIGHT

February's STEAM Career Spotlight featured Alexander Bennett, PhD, a mechanical engineer who helps develop instruments to help study DNA. He relies a lot on trial-and-error and learning from the experiences to guide his understanding about his work.

Teachers then have resources available to talk more about our career spotlights in the classroom.

If you want to talk more about Dr. Alexander Bennett and mechanical engineering at home, scan here!

I AM A **MECHANICAL ENGINEER**



I am an **NCAA National Football Champion**. I like surrounding myself with people that inspire me to grow. I'm **not great at taking tests**. I love going paddleboarding with my dogs. I design the instruments that scientists use to study DNA.

ALEXANDER BENNETT, PHD

ILLUMINATE



MARCH UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday, March 3** – Skilled Trades Career Expo 2023 at McCormick Place (Select 8th)
- Tuesday, March 7** – Career Spotlight Day at Wright College (Select 7th / 8th)
- Wednesday, March 15** – Kankakee Kids Day at Kankakee Farms (4th)
- Thursday, March 16** – Community Building Day / NASCAR STEM Challenge (K - 8th)
- Friday, March 17** – 2023 City STEM Exhibition at Illinois Tech (Select 7th / 8th)
- Monday, March 20** – ECCE Middle School Exploration Day at Von Steuben (Select 6th / 7th)
- Thursday, March 30** – CPS STE(A)M Schools Team Site Visit to Peterson

Can you support our STEAM programming?

Do you have ideas for any events, field trips, guest speakers, assemblies, or other opportunities that could supplement our Peterson STEAM programming? Are you interested in volunteering with one of our initiatives? We are always looking for ways to elevate our student experience!



If you are interested, please contact Mr. Mitchel Meighen, our STEAM Specialist, at msmeighen@cps.edu.