# THE STEAM MACHINE





Mary Gage Peterson Elementary's Monthly STEAM Update











This month, Peterson students, as well as CPS students from all 43 STEM and STEAM schools, competed in an in-classroom design challenge as a component of the new CPS partnership with NASCAR. Students worked together in groups to design their own race helmets that addressed key elements including safety, communication, ventilation, and other technological innovations. The complexity of the challenge varied depending on the 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 STEM and STEAM schools across the city, will earn invitations to STEAM Fest, where 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.

Students will be assigned a new NASCAR challenge and compete against each other to receive complimentary tickets to the Chicago Street Race Weekend this summer.

Using a school-wide vote, we'll determine which helmet designs will make it to the winner's circle, so stay tuned to see which Peterson students will earn the chance to represent our school at the first-ever "STEAM Fest" in downtown Chicago on May 2!



# Students advance to CPS City STEM Exhibition

Following their showing at the Chicago Public Schools Regional STEM Exhibition that was held virtually last month, five Peterson students advanced 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.

### **Peterson City STEM Exhibition Projects**

8th Grade

Convenient Cooling

by Yusra Talaty & Julieta Moreno

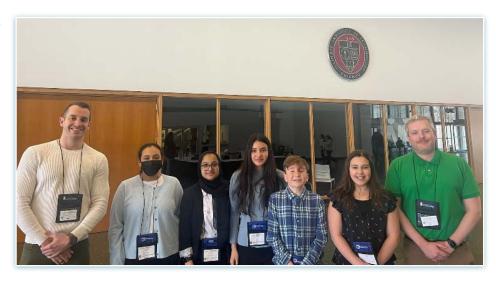
7th Grade

What colors absorb the most heat?

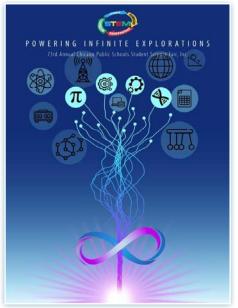
by Caleb Adamji & Angelina Erickson

Does Color Affect Taste?

by Violet Bramley









Three of our 6th grade students, pictured left above, also attended the City awards ceremony to receive the awards they earned from their work at the Regional STEM Exhibition. The three projects that earned awards were *The Power of Music* by **Fatimah Abubakar** (*Gold*), *Judging Gelato* by **Julia Korda** (*Gold*), and Can Certain Liquids Make Iron Corrode Faster? by **Ryder Young** (*Gold*).

**Violet Bramley**, pictured right above, also had an impressive showing at the City STEM Exhibition. Her project *Does Color Affect Taste?* scored high enough to advance to the Illinois Junior Academy of Science state competition at Southern Illinois University on April 28th and 29th. Violet also earned the ThermoFisher recognition for the top 10% of middle school students. Best of luck at IJAS, Violet!

# **DoSTEM Parent Roadshows**

The Department of STEM Parent Roadshows is a series of events to share district STEM Content Family Guides and receive feedback from parents/significant adults for SY23-24 distribution. The STEM Content Family Guides aims to empower families with resources to understand the expectations placed on student learning, the commitment from CPS to create learning environments that will result in student success, and how they can participate in their child's success.

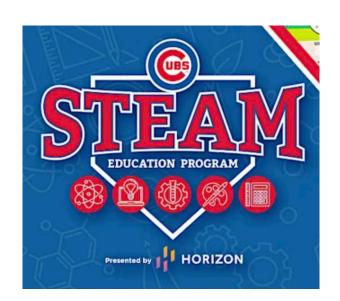
Scan the QR code to complete the registration form and select the best day for participation:

Thursday, April 13 from 10:00a to 12:00p Saturday, April 15 from 10:00a to 12:00p

Light refreshments will be provided at each session.



# Join the Chicago Cubs STEAM Fair



Horizon Therapeutics is proud to partner with the Chicago Cubs and Science of Sport to host the 3rd Annual Chicago Cubs STEAM Fair!

The Chicago Cubs Steam Fair presented by Horizon is free and open to the public for all ages to enjoy. Visit Wrigley Field for an engaging day exploring STEAM and its relation to baseball and softball, STEAM projects presented by local Chicago students, and watch an interactive live Science of Baseball show with Dr. Ricardo Valerdi, founder of Science of Sport.

The Chicago Cubs STEAM Program presented by Horizon is designed to expose Chicago students to STEAM and its relation to baseball to generate excitement for STEAM concepts in school.

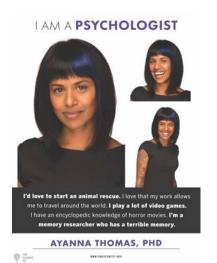
Project winners of the STEAM Fair will be invited back to Wrigley Field for a week-long STEAM Camp presented by Horizon designed to engage students on a deeper level using baseball to connect with STEAM. The 3rd Annual Chicago Cubs Steam Fair is free and open to the public for all ages to enjoy. Scan here to register!

# **STEAM CAREER SPOTLIGHT**

March's STEAM Career Spotlight features Ayanna Thomas, PhD, a psychologist who studies human memory and our thoughts are continually reconstructed as we lose pieces each time we try to recall information. She also examines racism and sexism in her work, continually reminding herself and your students that these encounters do not measure someone's worth..

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

If you want to talk more about Dr. Ayanna Thomas and psychology at home, scan here!





### APRIL UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, April 12** – STEAM Leadership Team Meeting from 4:00p to 5:00p

**Wednesday, April 19** – STEAM Leadership Team Meeting from 4:00p to 5:00p

**Thursday, April 27** – Illinois Science Assessment for Grades 5 and 8

**Thursday, April 27** – Peterson STEAM Night from 5:00p to 7:00p

**Friday, April 28** – Illinois Junior Academy of Science State Competition

Friday, April 28 – Peterson Concert Band Field Trip

## SAVE THE DATE!

Peterson STEAM Night Thursday, April 27 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Soon, 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.



### 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.