

Welcome to Estrella Vista STEM Academy! Children are at the center of our approach to teaching. Stepping away from skill and drill instruction, we ensure our students have skills to compete in the 21st century. Our world class programs require students to be reflective, creative, critical thinkers, and real world problem-solvers. In year one of our adventure, we will focus on making transformations in science, technology, and engineering.

Starting with science, we will carve out time during the school day to ensure science is taught daily. Everything we do from the moment we wake up in the morning is science related. From the food we eat to the function of our bodies in our environment, we will nurture discussions about everyday life in our classrooms. We will implement an inquiry-based model of hands-on learning to develop a richer understanding of the world we live in. Our highly skilled teachers will foster curiosity and motivate our students to engage in project-based learning at every grade level. Most importantly, we will connect learning to real-life experiences involving local culture and identity to make sense of our surroundings. Science exploration will stimulate the minds of our students as they identify ways to connect to the natural world.

Our next focus will be to maximize the capacity of technology. We are getting data and information at an ever-increasing rate. With a laptop for each child, we will use technology as a learning tool. Our students will develop a deeper understanding through the use of electronic devices. We plan to implement digital citizenship through modeling, exploring, and applying knowledge to real world experiences. Computers will be used for research, discovery, design-thinking, and problem-solving. Teachers will have two-way communication with students in the classroom and while at home. This will give our students the opportunity to get their questions about homework answered in a timely fashion. In addition, our students will be able to turn in assignments on-line. It will be quick, easy, and time efficient.

Finally, engineering will be critical to the success of our 21st century learners. We will focus on design-thinking which involves a lot of collaboration. Through this process, our students will develop empathy as they establish cooperative relationships with other students. Together, they will define problems and develop ideas of possible solutions. Working collaboratively, our students will design prototypes of solutions which will require some real innovative ideas. Each child's prototype will be tested by other children. We will work diligently with our students to provide meaningful feedback so our inventions can be improved for the best use. Our students will be required to deliver the feedback in a written format in order to enhance the way we present ourselves. With our efforts, our students will constantly be making good products become better products through our design-thinking process. Engineering has never been this fun!

Estrella Vista STEM Academy is sure to be adventurous. The opportunities are endless. With an emphasis on science, technology, and engineering in our first year of STEM implementation, it is sure to be a dynamic learning experience. We look forward to growing our students!