

Welcome to STEM Fridays!

I am so excited to begin another year of exploring and learning STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math with your preschoolers!

This year our curriculum is designed so that each month focuses on one part of STEM. For example, October will be all about Technology. We will talk about what technology is, how it helps us in our daily lives, and do hands-on activities to understand it better. As the year goes on, we will cycle through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math again, but with new lessons and fresh perspectives. For instance, when we return to Technology later in the year, we will shift our focus to coding. This way, children can build on what they already know while discovering something new each time.

Since September is our very first month together, we will spend that time introducing what STEM means as a whole. Each Friday will spotlight a different part of STEM, so students can begin to see how these areas connect. Then, starting in October, we will dive deeper into each area with a full month dedicated to one focus at a time.

At the start of each month, I will share our focus and a preview of the lessons, experiments, challenges, and projects we will be doing. I will also let you know if there are opportunities to volunteer or donate materials to support our classroom learning.

Our very first STEM Friday will be September 5th, and I cannot wait to see familiar faces and meet new friends as we begin our journey into the exciting world of STEM!

See below for any volunteer opportunities or supplies we will need this month, and please feel free to reach out via email if you have any questions.

Excitedly,

Clara Johnson AKA Mrs. J Cjohnson@lakeharrietumpreschool.org

What We Need This Month

September 2024

Change of Clothes: Please send an extra set of clothes specifically for the STEM classroom, separate from the change of clothes your child already keeps in their regular preschool classroom. This should include pants or shorts, a shirt, underwear, and socks. STEM activities can get messy, and we want to be prepared for spills or accidents.

Volunteers: Looking ahead, we will need 2–3 parent volunteers for our woodworking project on October 31st. Volunteers will guide students in safely using hammers, nails, and wood glue as they create their projects. If you're interested, please email me to sign up.

Makerspace Donations: Our classroom makerspace is a busy spot where preschoolers create, build, and experiment. To keep it stocked with supplies for tinkering and projects, I would love your help! Many of the items we use are simple household recyclables or craft supplies that you might already have at home.

Here are some things we are always collecting:

- Cardboard: cereal boxes, shipping boxes, shoe boxes (flattened if possible)
- Tubes: toilet paper rolls, paper towel rolls
- Craft supplies: pipe cleaners, popsicle sticks, googly eyes, pom poms, beads, buttons, feathers
- Building materials: clean bottle caps, jar lids, spools, small plastic containers
- Miscellaneous recyclables: egg cartons, bubble wrap, corks, string, yarn, fabric scraps

Please make sure all items are clean before donating. Thank you so much for helping keep our classroom stocked and ready for creativity!