

Special Highlight

Robotics Team



A rising interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields among young people inspired Mr. Brent White, a teacher at Madison-Carver Academy, to start a robotics team at his school. “Exposing children to STEM ideas at a young age is very important not only for their development, but also for the future of the industries involved. When they find it exciting and interesting, they will grow to pursue more knowledge as they move into high school and beyond,” Mr. White says.

The Robotics Team has grown into several highly rigorous, and even competitive, STEM classes for interested students from 4th to 8th grade at Madison-Carver Academy. It includes curriculum that is integrated into the school day, as well as an optional after-school program. “During the school day, we provide the curriculum to approximately 80 students,” Mr. White says. “The after-school program serves around 30 students and family members.” The students have been highly engaged in the classes and the after-school program even has a chance to attend the world championships in California.

Mr. White covers complex concepts with the students, being sure to make them accessible for their age and grade level. Students involved in the Robotics Team work on a variety of projects including robotic faces with gestures, arms with mobility, potato batteries, L.E.D. light displays, and motorized silly cars. They also focus on using the proper scientific process to journal their experiments and what happens in the lab. “The goal,” Mr. White explains, “is to start exposing students to highly technical areas as well as utilize the project-based learning concept to increase students’ critical thinking, reading, writing, math and science skills.” He says they are working on expanding the program to include graphic design, which will enhance the new journalism class and help them build an internationally competitive robotics team.

Mr. White concludes, “The hope is that these students will be better prepared for more advanced classes and expanded learning. They will also be well-versed in a variety of technical fields which will prepare them to plan for their futures.”

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