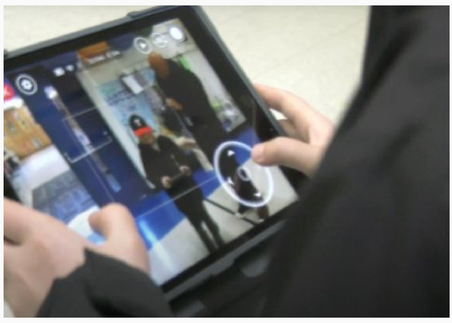
Turnkey STEM Program that Checks All the Boxes: “This isthe Best Investment Made by Our School”

News, Testimonials

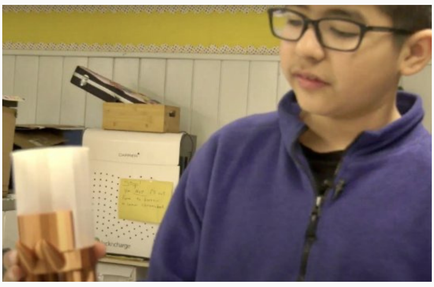
In an era where science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education is becoming increasingly vital, schools encounter a range of challenges when it comes to implementing comprehensive STEM learning programs. From limited resources to lack of teacher training and difficulties in integrating STEM into the school schedule, schools often face uphill battles. However, one school has found the perfect solution to address these pain points and create an extraordinary impact on its students. Little Fort Elementary School, located in Waukegan, has successfully implemented a turnkey STEM program that not only overcomes common obstacles but also exceeds expectations.

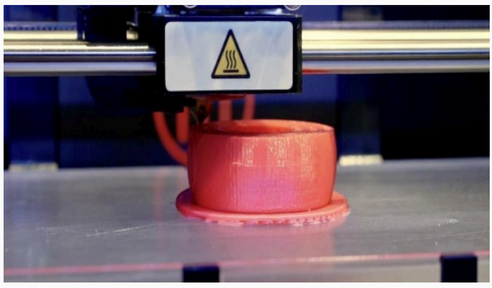
Little Fort Elementary School, part of the Waukegan Public School District, has been dedicated to STEM education for nearly eight years. Principal Amy Grossman, a long-time advocate for quality education, recognized the need for a program that would provide students with hands-on experiences in cutting-edge STEM fields such as drones and 3D printing. Traditionally, implementing STEM learning faced interruptions due to various reasons, making it challenging to create a consistent and impactful curriculum for students.



Unlike other schools that simply focus on purchasing hardware like robots, 3D printers, and drones, Principal Grossman prioritized a different approach. She understood that curriculum and training for instructors were paramount. With this in mind, she collaborated with NextwaveSTEM, a leading provider of turnkey STEM solutions, which offered its own comprehensive curriculum and training aligned with the interests of Little Fort Elementary students. This strategic partnership not only provided the school with high-quality curriculum and training but also resulted in significant time and cost savings for the district. By eliminating the need to develop their own curriculum and seek external training and professional development resources, Little Fort Elementary saved hundreds of hours that can now be dedicated to hands-on learning experiences further enhancing STEM education for its students.

What sets NextwaveSTEM apart is its commitment to delivering ongoing support to schools. Principal Grosman highlights the value of this support, stating, "It's just a great exposure for (students) everything that STEM has to offer and that we don't have time to do during the day." The program ensures that schools have the necessary resources, including drones and 3D printers, along with the expertise to utilize them effectively. This support not only enhances student engagement but also fosters 21st century skills in problem-solving, critical thinking, and collaboration.





A recent video spotlighting Little Fort Elementary School's STEM Club, edited by a school’s 5th grader, showcases the program's exceptional impact. Students share their enthusiasm for STEM activities such as flying drones and engaging with 3D printing. One student mentions, "I tell students about STEM Club and they should join. It's the best club ever." The program's immersive experiences have led to increased attendance, academic improvement and sparked interest in pursuing STEM careers.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3N3QJ4gMLbM

Contact a school specialist at NextWaveSTEM today, to see how we can help your school or program.

Principal Grossman, along with the teachers, emphasizes the program's benefits. They highlight the development of problem-solving, critical thinking, and perseverance skills, preparing students for the future. The program's dynamic environment encourages exploration, movement, and collaborative learning, captivating students' interest. Furthermore, the success of the program has generated immense enthusiasm among younger students, leading to plans for expanding its reach.