

D'ARBONNE WOODS CHARTER SCHOOL

21st Century Community Learning Center

DWCS was awarded a 1.9 million dollar grant, which will span a three-year period, and will implement STEM learning across all grade levels. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math and will supplement the traditional curriculum already at DWCS. The grant also provides afterschool electives such as Art, Music, and STEM where students participate in hands on activities or projects beyond the classroom.

As part of this grant, DWCS partnered with several organizations and companies in order to provide support and purchase equipment that would be needed. Partners include Louisiana Tech University and NICERC, University of Louisiana at Monroe, Lego Education, Audubon Nature Institute, Red Stick Robotics, Ad Pros Promotions, Community Trust Bank, and the Union Parish Library. Students in Kindergarten through 5th grade will be participating in a Lego Education program where they will work with Legos to enhance their learning experience. All lessons supplement the common core curriculum and allow students to have hands on learning with STEM vocabulary and concepts.



MUSIC AND ART PROGRAMS

Electives such as music and art are new and available to elementary students during the week. High School students also have these opportunities either during the school day or as an after school program. Throughout the year, students will participate in talent shows and art auctions to help sustain these programs for the future.



21st Century Community Learning Center

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**“PARTNERING TODAY FOR
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW!”**

K-5 LEGO EDUCATION



Students in Kindergarten through 5th grade will be participating in a Lego Education program where they will work with Legos to enhance their learning experience. All lessons supplement the common core curriculum and allow students to have hands on learning with STEM vocabulary and concepts. Teachers have been trained by representatives from Lego Education and each classroom will be equipped with Lego education kits and laptop carts.



6-8 STEM ELECTIVE



Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade will have the opportunity to take part in a special STEM elective class, to supplement the traditional science classes, created by NICERC. NICERC is a partner with the Cyber Innovation Center in Shreveport and is based on the Louisiana Tech campus. These classes have modules that allow students to create and compete with projects. Teachers in these grades were trained over the summer at a week-long NICERC training in Shreveport.



“There is an energy here that is very contagious. My 6th and 7th graders are motivated, excited, and anxious to come to school and work on this module. They have been inspired to do independent research and testing. Students who were unmotivated and uninvolved are now key players in their small groups and have found an interest in academics they didn't think they had. – Jonathon Ownby, STEM teacher



MARINE BIOLOGY ROBOTICS



High School programs that are new through the grant include: Marine Biology and Robotics. These classes will allow students to participate in classes unlike any other in the area. The marine biology class has incorporated a live touch tank and will be taking a field trip in the spring to visit the Audubon Nature Institute in New Orleans. The robotics classes will spend the year learning how to build, program, and compete using VEX robots through Red Stick Robotics out of Baton Rouge.

The robotics class consists of Vex robots, which were received through Red Stick Robotics. The mobile student-operated Vex introduces students to the world of robotics thru higher-level thinking skills and real world situations. This course allows students the opportunity to explore possible engineering careers and the possible opportunity to receive a college credit.

