

LMSD

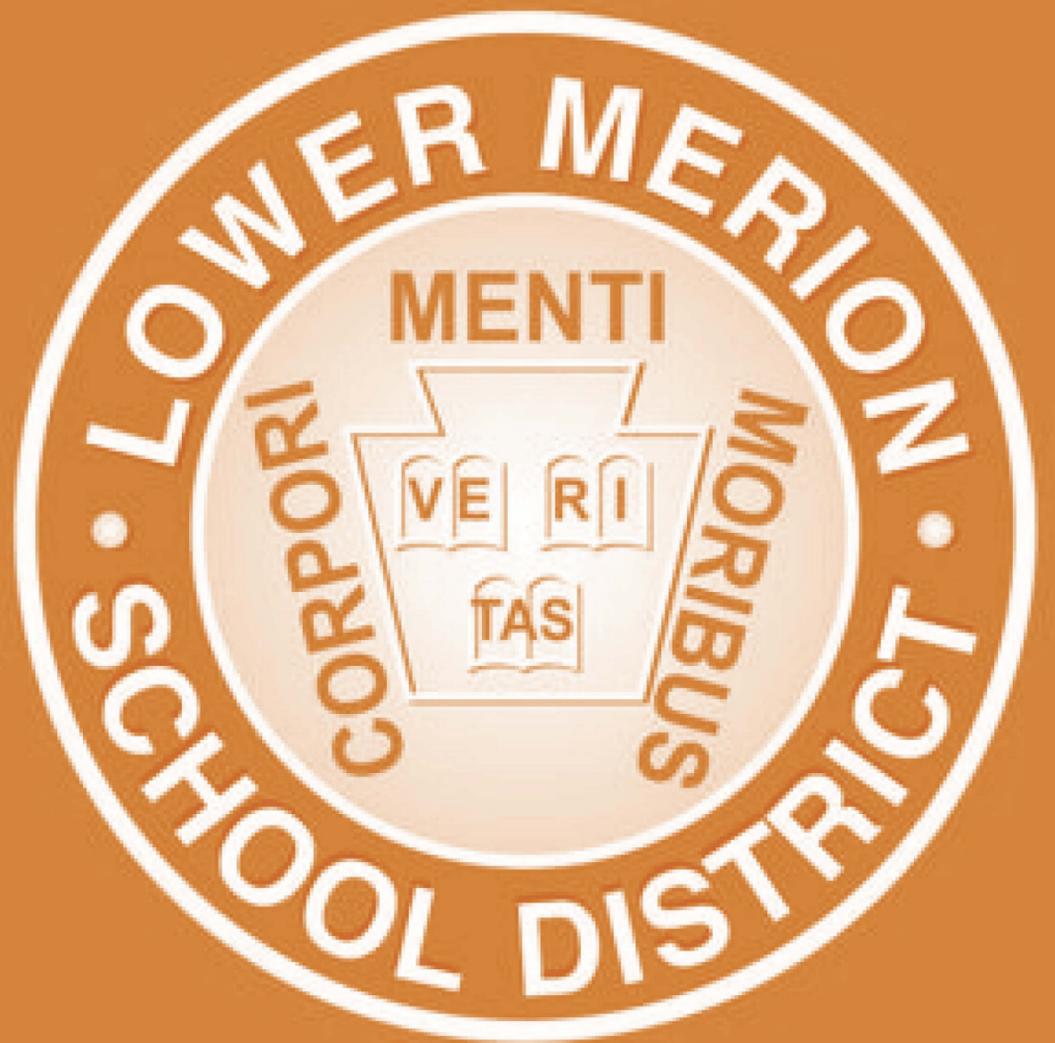


ELEMENTARY STEM

FALL/WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER

STEM IN OUR SCHOOLS AND OUR COMMUNITY

This newsletter is designed to share some of the highlights of the Lower Merion School District's explorations of STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Each issue also highlights STEM opportunities in our surrounding area. Shared twice a school year via our district webpage, we hope that you enjoy learning a bit about STEM experiences and opportunities that exist for our elementary students.



STEM & LITERACY

In each issue of this newsletter, we share information about a book that connects to STEM topics. This issue's selection is Perfect Square by Michael Hall. In this story, an ordinary square of construction paper is transformed into many different creations. For additional STEM books, visit: <https://bit.ly/2QnCfUQ>.

perfect
square



Michael Hall

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THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

The Franklin Institute is a great place to take the family for a STEM outing! Learn about emerging trends in science and technology at the Now/Next Exhibit. Try your hand at an Escape Room or explore Virtual Reality with Oculus Rift and HTC Vive. Not only are there a wide variety of exhibits to choose from, but the staff at FI has created many fantastic programs for families to enjoy.

Have you ever wanted to spend a night in a museum? Well, you can at the Franklin Institute. Multiple times a year, the staff sleeps over and you can, too! Registration is required to sleep next to the giant heart or other FI exhibits.

For families visiting with someone with sensory differences, consider borrowing a “sensory backpack” from the Information Desks. Packed with helpful resources like sensory alert maps and noise-reducing headphones, these backpacks can help improve your experience. There are also “Sensory Friendly Sundays.” Preregistration is required.

Check out fi.edu for information on all that the museum has to offer for a fun-filled day of STEM exploration!



SAVE THE DATE!

The 5th Annual LMSD Elementary Family STEM Night is going to be held on Thursday, April 16, 2020! District staff are eagerly planning another fun-filled and STEM-tastic evening for the whole family! More details will be shared after the Winter Break, but be sure to mark your calendars now! Join us on Thursday, April 16, 2020!

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FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

After a successful inaugural season last year, FIRST LEGO League teams have begun meeting to prepare for this year's competition!

Teams at each of our elementary schools are exploring robotics and coding by programming LEGO EV3 robots to travel across the mat to complete missions. They are also learning about the challenges facing cities as they explore this year's research challenge called City Shaper. Posed with the question, "What if you could build a better world?" students are looking around their communities for a problem to solve that would make their world a bit better.

Students and teachers on the elementary school teams will be working with students from Lower Merion School District's Dawgma team. Dawgma is an award winning FIRST Robotics Competition team working to promote and inspire STEM initiatives in our community. This partnership is an exciting addition to our FLL program! Check out our Spring Newsletter to see the results of our season's competition which will be held in March!

JUNIOR FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

Jr. FLL is a FIRST Robotics Program that allows students between the ages of 6-9 to explore STEM by using Legos. Participating in the Jr. FLL expo will give students valuable skills in problem solving, creativity, design.

Through cooperation between LMSD and the Lower Merion High School Technology and Engineering Club, a Jr. FLL expo is held annually at Penn Wynne Elementary.

This year, the expo will be on Saturday March 21, 2020 from 9 a.m. until noon.

In preparation for the event, teams will create a robotic Lego Model and a Show-Me Poster to demonstrate their knowledge on an environmental or social theme.

The theme for the 2020 competition is Boomtown Build, which gives students the opportunity to explore methods to power our future cities and towns.

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INVESTIGATIONS 3: PEARSON REALIZE

Pearson Realize provides online access to Investigations 3, the district's core resource for elementary math instruction. Students can play games and watch Math Words and Ideas videos. Families can access the site by visiting the Investigations website from the district webpage. <https://www.lmsd.org/parents/elem-resources>.

DREAMBOX LEARNING

Dreambox is the adaptive, online learning resource utilized during the school year for students in Kindergarten through Fourth Grade. Students can log into the app or use the convenient link on the Elementary Family Resource page on the district's website to continue on their personalized learning journey at home.

EXACT PATH

Exact Path is the adaptive, online learning resource utilized by Fifth Grade this year. From the district homepage, students can use Classlink to access the program at home to continue on their personalized learning path.

ADDITIONAL STEM RESOURCES

There are so many resources available for families to add a dose of STEM to their evenings or weekends. Check out these links!

Best STEM Books:

<https://bit.ly/37AP9EG>

Hour of Code

<https://code.org/learn>

STEM Activities

<http://stem-works.com/activities>

<http://stem-works.com/activities>