



# Your Public Schools



Empire State Advantage Gold Level Awardee

Community Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 10



## Summer Opportunities for Students

### Summer STEM

The District will again host a Summer STEM Camp (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) this summer from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. August 13 to August 17 at Cataract Elementary School. It is open to students entering grades one to nine.

Students in grades one and two will enjoy a exploration of STEM activities.

Students in grades three and four will participate in a service learning program, in which they will study the health of a beach as environmental science citizens.

Students in grades five and six will learn the fundamentals of basic coding using a blue-tooth-enabled robot.

Students in grades seven through nine will study robotics.

The camps are designed to be fun. Transportation is not provided, but they are free. Students must be currently enrolled District students. Register by visiting [www.nfschools.net](http://www.nfschools.net).

### Summer Sports Camp

The popular camp for prep and high school students will run July 9 to August 10, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free lunch and busing are provided. The camp includes activities like baseball, basketball, bowling, football, hockey, softball, swimming, tennis, volleyball, and wrestling. Applications are available at all schools and on-line at [www.nfschools.net](http://www.nfschools.net). There is no enrollment deadline.

### Kindercamp

Students entering Kindergarten in September of 2018  
Location: Niagara University Campus  
Dates: July 9th – 12th 2018  
July 16th – 19th 2018  
Times: Morning Session – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Afternoon Session – 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Cost: None  
Busing: Not provided

### Extended Learning Program

Program offered to ALL students exiting grades K-5. Students reinforce skills in Math

and Literacy in the morning, and enjoyed recreational activities in the afternoon.

Locations: Abate, Niagara Street, and Cataract  
Dates: July 9th – August 9th  
Program held Monday through Thursday  
Time : 8:45am – 3:00pm  
DAILY MORNING SCHEDULE: 90 Minutes of Language Arts Instruction – 90 Minutes of Math Instruction  
DAILY AFTERNOON SCHEDULE: Recreational activities facilitated in partnership with the Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club  
Busing, lunch and snack provided  
Change from 2017: District Coordinators will remain on site ALL day, new Language Arts curriculum, enhanced Math curriculum.

### Camp Wolverine

Summer program focused on maintaining academic, vocational, social and behavioral consistency of students enrolled in the District's Functional Life Skills Classes.

Ages: 5-20  
Location: NFHS  
Time: 8:30 am – 11:30 am  
Days: Monday through Thursday  
Busing: Provided  
Fee: None

### Fine Arts Camp

Grades: 3rd – 6th  
Location: Harry F. Abate  
Dates: August 13th – 17th ,2018  
Times: 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm  
Busing: Dismissal busing provided  
Fee: None

### Summer School

Orleans/Niagara Summer School offers required academic programing. This program provides students the opportunity to re-address classes of concern, obtain required credit for graduation, earn additional credits toward graduation, and an opportunity to challenge existing grades or Regents exam results.

(Please see page 3)

## Literary Style at NFHS

Teacher Lori Moskaluk and Library Media Specialist Cheree Copelin had a thought about the staircase in the Library Media Center at NFHS. The black stairwell in the center of the space had remained exactly how it was in 2000 when the high school opened.

Not anymore.

Cheree Copelin designed, and Maintenance personnel Paul Marion and Dan Littere made and installed, decorative riser covers that resemble book bindings from some classic works of literature.

"We tried to include as many genres as we could," Ms. Copelin said. Selected titles were pulled from the shelf and the bindings studied for color, font, and basic design. Ms. Copelin set designs and the looks were replicated and reproduced by the Maintenance Department personnel.

The effect adds a splash of color a decidedly literary mood to the space, and the students are appreciative of it.

"Students love it, and have been very careful about not dragging their feet on them when going up or down the stairs," she said.

Right outside the Library Media Center, another



staff-designed celebrates the diverse heritage of NFHS students. A banner proclaiming "We Are All Wolverines" is surrounded by flags of the countries of origin of students at the school. It was the brain child of Media Production Teacher Rich Meranto.

Countries include: Canada, Columbia, Ghana, India, Australia, Russia, Mexico, Italy, Sudan, Kuwait, Jamaica, Vietnam, Japan, Libya, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Pakistan, Yemen, Dominican Republic, Jordan, Ukraine, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, Germany, Guatamela, China, Puerto Rico, Israel, Philippines, and Brazil.

Library Media Specialist Cheree Copelin stands atop the staircase she re-designed at NFHS.





## From the Superintendent



Mark Laurrie

At the conclusion of the academic year, I am happy to report that we have made good progress academically since September, as well as good progress with the non-tangibles that impact student achievement.

You can't always measure a student's self-esteem or mental health, but you can provide resources for students in need, and we have done this. You can provide Mental Health First Aid training to staff; you can provide common sense personal health education and access to basic health care. You can provide Naloxone training so some staff is prepared in the case of overdose emergency anywhere in the community. All of this we have done, and I thank the Board of Education for its support in all these measures.

We have also worked hard to expand educational opportunities through Extended School Day programs and by holding as many summer camps and programs as we can possible fund. These are important for additional academic supports, and also to alleviate potentially unsupervised time for youth. In some cases, the longer students can remain at school, the safer they are. That's some-

*Your Public Schools invites a different principal each month to offer thoughts in the space below. This month, the principal of Cataract Elementary School offers his thoughts.*

## Something To Do This Summer



Jeff Showers

The Niagara Falls City School District provides many opportunities for kids to be active academically and physically. We all want to have positive extracurricular activities for our children in the summer time, to fill their daily or evening schedule with meaningful purpose or to simply take away idle time.

The District offers multiple options such as the summer extended learning program in conjunction with the Boys & Girls Club to meet the needs of kids in K – 5, along with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) camp offerings. Niagara Falls High School has afternoon sports and fine arts programs for secondary students and the Police Athletic League has the summer soccer program behind the high school for ages 3 to 12 years of age.

Enrolling your child into extracurricular activities directly correlates to improved

thing else we are glad to help with as we are able.

We have augmented our District-wide conversations about safety and a culture of inclusivity. We have increased counselors and School Resource Officers even as we have hosted motivational speakers like Austin Hatch.

Occasionally, the question will arise whether all these measures will impact student learning. I feel unequivocally that they will. I believe test scores will show this. But beyond that, these are steps that will improve the lives of our youth, and that, in and of itself, is a worthwhile undertaking.

This year, we have Senior Patrick Singleton accepted to Harvard and awarded a Bill and Melinda Gates Scholarship. We have many, many other graduates who plan to attend other prestigious universities. Our chess club finished second only to St. Francis in tournament play. Anyone who attended the District Arts Festival saw the talent on display there. Our younger students have had the chance to perform on stage. Our spelling bee was a showcase of talented young spellers. There have been so many successes all year. But we cannot take be lulled into complacency. Join us as we prepare for bigger, better things in September.

## 2018 2019 Calendar Highlights

First day of school:  
**September 5**

**September 13:** Superintendent's Conference Day - No School

**September 28:** Half Day for NFHS, Prep

**October 8:** Columbus Day No School

**November 6:** Elementary No School Parent-Teacher Conferences

**November 12:** Veterans Day No School

**November 13:** NFHS Half Day Parent-Teacher Conferences

**November 14:** Prep Half Day Parent-Teacher Conferences

**November 21-23:** Happy Thanksgiving!

**December 24-31:** Winter Recess

**January 1:** Winter Recess

**January 17:** Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration, 6 p.m., PAC

**January 25:** NFHS No School

**February 18 - 19:** Presidents Day No School

**February 20:** NFHS, No School, Elementary Half Day (Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences) No School

**February 21:** Prep Half Day Parent-Teacher Conferences

**March 7:** NFHS Parent-Teacher Conference 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**March 15:** No School

**April 11:** Elementary, Prep, No School

**April 15-26:** Spring Recess

**May 13:** Elementary, Prep, No School

**May 24; 27:** Memorial Day No School

**June 7:** NFHS No School

**June 10:** NFHS No School

**June 20-21, 24:** Prep Half Day

**June 25:** Elementary: Half Day



Art by Kelsi Amoretti.

### Emergency Closure Pay Back Schedule 2018 -2019

The District has pre-determined which scheduled days off might be converted back into regular school days in the event harsh weather or other unforeseen circumstance gobbles up the built in emergency closure days.

ONLY IF NEEDED, days converted back to regular school days would be:

November 21  
February 19  
March 15  
May 24  
April 26, 25, 24, 23, 22, 18, 17, 16

**LaSalle High School Class of 1983 REUNION**  
Friday July 13, 2018 \* 7pm-11pm - Casual Get Together  
Hyatt Place Niagara Falls  
310 Rainbow Blvd, NF  
Package includes two hours of unlimited premium beverages and hot hors d'oeuvres, fireworks over the Falls at 10pm from the rooftop patio. Early bird pricing: \$40 if paid by April 13. Price goes to \$45 on April 14, \$55 at door. Rooms available at the hotel reserve @ <https://niagarafalls.place.hyatt.com/iagznhsr1.html>. Checks payable to Treasurer Doreen Poole, 8712 Lindbergh Ave, NF, NY 14304 or PayPal – [paypal.me/LaSalle1983](https://paypal.me/LaSalle1983)  
Questions? LaSalleSrHS1983@gmail.com  
Hope to see you there!



Walk Against Child Abuse



Focus on Families, Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, and the District held the second annual Walk Against Child Abuse in April. Joining in the Walk were old friends--like the Niagara County Department of Social Services, including Commissioner Anthony Restaino; Mayor Paul Dyster; and Maddie the Dog, who also came last year -- but new friends as well. Bikers Against Child Abuse® (B.A.C.A.®) came in considerable numbers

to support the cause.

According to its website, “We stand ready to lend support to our wounded friends by involving them with an established, united organization. We work in conjunction with local and state officials who are already in place to protect children. We desire to send a clear message to all involved with the abused child that this child is part of our organization, and that we are



prepared to lend our physical and emotional support to them by affiliation, and our physical presence.”

Bikers are cleared for participation by passing an extensive NCIC background check, have ridden with the Chapter for at least a year, and have received intensive training on the organization and how to interact and communicate with abused children from their International Training Staff.

Following initial contact, the guardian and child are given the name and number of two B.A.C.A.® Members residing geographically closest to them, who then become the child’s primary contacts. B.A.C.A.® begins to empower the abused child by showing up when the child needs them...a crucial step in respecting their needs and rights as children.



Above, Liz Carroll and Linda O’Grady; Maddie Schove; and members of Bikers Against Child Abuse® (B.A.C.A.®) at the Walk Against Child Abuse. Far above, right, parent Cher Moore, and Focus on Families’ Margaret Mozell, and Judy Martin.

From the Archives



Above, Trott Vocational High School; below, LaSalle Senior High School.



Safety Corner

Finally, it is time to get into the yard, tend the garden, and mow the lawn. But safety should always be first in mind, especially when using tools that are so common, it is easy to forget they are dangerous.

Follow these rules for lawn mower safety.

LAWN MOWER SAFETY

- Only use a mower with a control that stops the mower blade from moving if the handle is let go.
- Children younger than 16 years should not be allowed to use ride-on mowers. Children younger than 12 years should not use walk-behind mowers.
- Make sure that sturdy shoes are worn while mowing.
- Prevent injuries from flying objects, such as stones or toys, by picking up objects from the lawn before mowing begins. Have anyone who uses a mower wear hearing and eye protection.

- Do not pull the mower backward or mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary, and carefully look for children behind you when you mow in reverse.
- Always turn off the mower and wait for the blades to stop completely before removing the grass catcher, unclogging the discharge chute, or crossing gravel paths, roads, or other areas.
- Do not allow children to ride as passengers on ride-on mowers.
- Keep children out of the yard while mowing.
- Drive up and down slopes, not across, to prevent mower rollover.
- Keep guards, shields, switches, and safety devices in proper working order at all times.
- If children must be around running lawnmowers, they should wear polycarbonate protective eye wear at all times.

Adopted from the © American Academy of Pediatrics, 2017



Wolverine Closet



The Wolverine Closet remains up and running and fully stocked, thanks in part to Torrid in the Fashion Outlets. The store donated inventory to the high school thrift shop, where students can “shop” for free for clothing and other needs.

Located in a classroom, the Closet is full to the brim with clothes for young men and women, shoes, personal needs, and school supplies. Teachers provide a large quantity of the donations, which are washed, if needed, by Life Skills students, and cataloged and sorted by CDOS students. Every teacher and counselor has a key, so a student or group of students can gain access anytime they are free.

Clothing racks were donated Kohl’s and Capital Cleaners donated hangers. Teacher Lori Moskaluk was key to set

ting up the Wolverine Closet.

“The Wolverine closet was created for all students. The staff at Niagara Falls High school supply it and some retail stores like Kohl’s, Target and Torrid have generously donated items. It carries clothes, shoes, jewelry, school supplies and personal care items. All items are free. Student volunteers who need volunteer hours for graduation staff it. The life skills classes wash and fold items when needed. The whole building contributes to it being a success.”

The students can shop the closet with a pass from their teachers on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 10:00 to 2:00 or any staff member can bring them down at any time. It is located in room 123. There are some special after school shopping hours throughout the year.



Opportunity!

NFHS seniors enjoyed a wonderful opportunity to learn about a new, adult, for-credit technical skills program for high school graduates.

The training programs are centered around advanced manufacturing and energy, and is sponsored by Northland Workforce Training Center in Buffalo. Programs are CNC precision machining, machine tool technology, mechatronics, welding technology, electrical construction and maintenance electrician, and energy utility technology. All instruction is provided by ECC and Alfred State faculty, and students earn college credit. Northland provides all students with career coaching (to create an Individualized Employment Plan), transportation, internships, co-ops, apprenticeships, permanent job placement, and will offer ongoing support services for three years.

Northland staff visited NFHS; interested students were able to sign up to meet one-on-one with a placement coordinator.

This opportunity provided NFHS seniors with information about for-credit technical skills programs offered by Northland, and encouraged those students with post high school plans.

Summer Offerings (cont.)

Summer Enrichment Camps

Grades: 7th – 12th  
Times: 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm  
(Monday - Friday)  
Busing: Transportation & lunch provided  
Fee: FREE- Applications available after May 7 at all schools and on-line.

SCHEDULE:  
Performing Arts Camp: July 9th – July 20th (Monday – Friday)  
Coding Camp: July 23rd – July 27th (Monday – Friday)  
Chess Camp: July 30th – August 10th (Monday – Friday)

Summer School

Location: Niagara Falls High School

Dates: July 11th to August 15th, 2018  
7th and 8th grade 8:00 am to 11:35 am  
9th-12th grade: 8:25 am to 12:05 pm  
Fee: Free  
Transportation: Provided

Driver & Traffic Safety Education Course

July 5, 2018 through August 17, 2018  
at Niagara Falls High School  
Cost is \$400.00 per student  
Orleans/Niagara BOCES Driving School offers students who are 16 years of age and who possess a valid NYS Permit a 48-hour course to learn how to drive responsibly. Students who successfully complete the course receive a MV285 certificate, which enables students 17 years of age to secure a senior operator license and are eligible for insurance reduction depending on the company.

Students must be 16 years of age by July 5, 2018 and have a valid New York State Permit.

*\* Classes may be canceled due to lack of enrollment.*

Grandpa was a Buffalo Bill



Not everyone’s grandfather is a member of the Buffalo Bills Alumni, but Mark Pirolli’s is. As a matter of fact, he is also a District employee.

Ken Jones played offensive line for the Bills and, later, the NY Jets, and was head football coach at LaSalle Senior High School for several years. Most recently, he was the subject of his grandson’s “People I Admire” project, so he came by Patricia Krolewski’s grade three classroom to hear the report and meet the students. Mr. Jones was kind enough to bring Bills items and sign autographs for all Mark’s classmates.





Earth Day at Kalfas; Recognition; Human Understanding Class



To celebrate Earth Day and help teach students the importance of maintaining and keeping their local community and environment clean, and educate them on the importance of sustainability. Adopt-A-School partner Covanta Niagara and Kalfas Magnet Elementary School's Lauren Falsetti and Linda Olsen organized an outdoor cleanup. Students also planted vegetable seedlings in the school's STEM lab and painting bird houses made from recycled school milk cartons.

Jared Todentenhagen, Ava Perez, and Eden Williams hard at work at Henry J. Kalfas Magnet Elementary School.



At center left, Willie McDougald, who earned the first state wrestling title in Niagara Falls High School history, was recognized at a Board of Education meeting in the presence of coaches D. J. Giancola, Don McCoy, and Josh Egan. He was the second-seed at 132 pounds in Division I, after winning the Section VI title. He defeated the top-seeded senior from Wantagh, 3-2 and finished the season 39-5.

Recognized this month will be Jennifer Beasock, who was a finalist in a NYS Art Contest for cyber safety.

At bottom left, Mike Esposito invited Board of Education Vice President Robert Restaino to come to his classroom, to help prepare students for a mock trial they planned to hold. Mr. Restaino is a trial attorney and graduate of the University at Buffalo and Niagara University. He explained the roles of the various parties -- district attorney, defense attorney, witnesses, and so on. The mock trial was to center on the case of JonBenet Ramsey. (No actual trial ever took place in relation to this case).





Visit the **VEGGIE VAN** in Niagara Falls  
MOBILE FARMERS MARKET

Every Thursday, July 12th through September 27th  
(Excluding August 2nd)

10am-12pm  
John Duke Senior Center  
1201 Hyde Park Blvd

1pm-3pm  
Community Health Center  
2715 Highland Avenue

 Creating Healthy Schools & Communities: Niagara Falls & Lackawanna  
Contact: (716)299-0905 x285, NiagaraCHP@Cornell.edu  
Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. Please contact our office if you have any special needs.

12 Seniors Receive Scholarships at the Niagara Falls Education Foundation Dinner

Twelve seniors accepted a total of \$15,500 in scholarships at the Niagara Falls Education Foundation annual dinner. Five scholarships are sponsored by companies or individuals; the rest are provided directly by the Foundation, whose mission is to provide resources to recognize the current accomplishments and promote the future success of the students in the Niagara Falls City School District. It also recognizes individuals as Distinguished Alumni or Emerging Leaders. Those honors went this year to Carmela Fortuna and Charles Marazzo, and Lynne Neveu, respectively.

Other scholarships are provided by Coachlines (Joseph R. Argy Memorial Scholarship), Mark Cerrone, Inc. (Mark Cerrone, Inc. Building Trades, Mark Cerrone, Inc. Diesel Mechanics), and the Niagara Falls Chapter of Rotary International (NF Rotary Club Humanitarian Award).



Vincenzo Bianco  
Joseph R. Argy Memorial Scholarship/Entrepreneurship \$2000  
Bus. Admin.



Timothy Hegepeth  
Mark Cerrone, Inc. Building Trades \$2000  
Welding/Technology



Makayla Rubin  
Mark Cerrone, Inc. Diesel Mechanics \$2000  
Diesel Equipment Tech.



Natalia Suska  
Phylliss E. Jahn Comm. Service Scholarship Award \$1500  
Chem./Chem. Eng.



Ariana Sanders  
NF Rotary Club Humanitarian Award \$1000  
Social Work



Cortez Bradberry  
NFEF Scholarship Awards \$1000  
Criminal Justice/Forensics



Alexandra Dixon  
NFEF Scholarship Awards \$1000  
Mathematics and Science



Quran Dubois  
NFEF Scholarship Awards \$1000  
Physical Therapy



Mikayla Howard  
NFEF Scholarship Awards \$1000  
History



Anthony Kinney  
NFEF Scholarship Awards \$1000  
Special Education



Patrick Singleton  
NFEF Scholarship Awards \$1000  
Mathematics



Ryan Washcalus  
NFEF Scholarship Awards \$1000  
Computer Science



Mermaid swims at Abate



The Harry F. Abate Elementary School Drama Club presented Disney The Little Mermaid in the auditorium in April. Forty-six students participated either as cast members or production club members. The play was directed by Mary Kay Reygers and Andrew Fisher; the production club is led by Donna Nadrowski, AnnMarie Melloni, and Kristen Martell. The production was really quite good! Congratulations to all! This is part of the District’s renewed focus on drama at all levels of education.



College Commitment Day



Hewitt Nominees

Congratulations to Hewitt Award Nominees Natalia Suska and Patrick Singleton.

Eighteen scholar-athletes representing nine area high schools were honored at the 53rd annual Thomas E. Hewitt Sports Awards Dinner in May. The dinner is named for the late city editor of the Niagara Gazette and has been held for 53 years.

Cornell Co-operative Extension

Schools Growing Excited about Tower Gardens

By Jennifer Tynan/ School Coordinator Creating Healthy Schools and Communities through Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County (CCE) is excited to announce the implementation of two Tower Gardens; one at Gaskill Prep. and the other at Niagara Street ES. These indoor aeroponic growing units were made possible through Creating Healthy Schools and Communities, a five year grant funded by the New York State Department of Health.

Tower Gardens are state-of-the-art, vertical, aeroponic growing systems that allow you to grow up to 28 vegetables, herbs, fruits, and flowers in less than three square feet. The plants grow in the air or a mist environment rather than soil. They are perfect for a school environment because they teach healthy habits and are available throughout the school year unlike a traditional school garden that is limited by the school calendar and WNY climate. Since they are on wheels, they can be moved as needed. The lights and pump are both on timers that can be set to run automatically during school vacations. Water and nutrients are contin-

uously cycling through the Tower, showering the plants’ roots and the flowing water creates a calming sound. The also teach environmental awareness by using less water and space with a high yield.

Students in Mr. Clark’s Robotics class assembled their Tower in the STEM Lab. They are already growing herbs, greens and strawberries. Mr. Clark says that the Tower Gardens will provide a unique opportunity for studying science and nutrition. We look forward to producing our own fresh vegetables that we can share at lunch. Next year we will partner with the after-school cooking club to supply freshly grown produce.

The Tower Garden at Niagara Street School is showcased in front of the main office. Students in the garden club planted herbs and greens and will learn to test the PH and harvest the plants for educational purposes. They will use their journals to sketch and label the plants as they grow. Plans are underway to connect this with healthy parent/student cooking classes in collaboration with Eat Smart NY.

These Tower Gardens will provide engaging opportunities to bring science, nutrition, math, and other curricular areas to life. We hope that students’ interest will grow with the gardens.

**NIAGARA FALLS CITY SCHOOLS PRESENTS...**

**FREE Lunch and bussing**

**JULY 9 TO AUGUST 10**

**Prep and High School Students**

**SUMMER SPORTS CAMP**

**Applications are available at all schools and online**

**OUR ACTIVITIES**

BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, BOWLING, FOOTBALL, HOCKEY, SOFTBALL, SWIMMING, TENNIS, VOLLEYBALL, WRESTLING



Second Annual District-wide All Arts Festival

Last year, then-District drama teacher Kate Muldoon led the organization of a District-wide Art Festival that proved to be extremely well-attended and showcased the visual and performing artistic talent of District students. The event was so well-received that she agreed to return this year and organize it again. And again, about 2,000 people attended the three-hour event to see paintings, ceramics, collages, sculptures and more, as well as hearing jazz, marching band and more. Here is a sampling of the evening’s offerings.



Elementary STEM Update

by Ronni McGrath

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education at the elementary level is all about exposure and sparking an interest in STEM that will encourage our students to pursue deeper inquiries in the upper grades and beyond. STEM embedded experiences for elementary students may include:

Robotics and Coding: These robots introduce the fundamentals necessary for understanding coding and it’s implications in today’s technical society.

- K-2 Bee Bots –Students learn that the robots can only do what the student specifically programs it to do. Bee Bots have simplistic directional coding that can support math, science, ELA or social studies curricu-

lums.

Example: Students read a story and use the robot to show their understanding of the order of important events in the story.

- 3-4 LEGO Robotics – Students build LEGO models and use “block coding” to control things such as movement and sounds made by these models. Again, these bots can support all content areas. Example: Student solve math word problems embedded in a story to find the correct code to make their robot “act out” events in a story. Students must then write an ending to the story that includes math word problems whose answers will be the code needed to make their bots actions match the story.

- 5-6 Sphero Bots – Students do more advanced block coding using blue-tooth enabled tablets to control robots. Example: In an investigation of motion and force, students determine if different factors (mass, friction, gravity) impact how far the robot can roll.

Engineering Challenges

As we begin to transition to our new science standards, engineering will become a major focus for instruction. We are happy to say that students are already engaged in solving engineering problems in the classroom. Some examples are described below:

- K – Students learn about being “green” by determining the most environmentally friendly path for a delivery truck to take in a fictional community.

- 1 – Students learn about forces by experimenting with gravity and mass in order to help the Three Little Pigs use a sled to get away from the Big Bad Wolf.
- 2 – Students learn about the properties of materials as they work to design a mat for their fictional puppy to wipe his/her paws off after playing outside in the rain.
- 3 – Students learn about the uses of magnets as the design a fish tank cleaning tool.
- 4 – Students work as environmental engineers to design a tool to help clean up an oil spill.
- 5 –Students work as aerospace engineers to design a parachute that will work on a different planet.
- 6 – Students work as biomedical engineers to design a knee brace for an injured friend.



