

THE RED REPORT

Beaverton Rural School District Monthly Communique

December 2016

\$9,000 Robotics Grant Benefits Beaverton's Students

Beaverton Rural Schools are committed to increasing instructional programming opportunities for students in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics, commonly referred to as "STEAM."

The Michigan Department of Education recently appropriated funding for competitive grants to districts that provide pupils in grades 7-12 with expanded opportunities to improve mathematics, science, and technology skills by participating in events hosted by a science and technology development program known as FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics. Beaverton Junior/Senior High School (BJSHS) was awarded \$9,000 to develop a robotics program and is one of 382 districts across the state to receive the funding, totaling over 1,000 teams to receive the grant.

BJSHS will now field a team of up to 35 students to design and build a competitive robot. Students will be provided with hands-on experiences to apply science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics skills to real-world scenarios. Wayne Kinne, owner of Kinne Plastics in Beaverton, has offered his expertise as the front-line coach this year. He will be assisted by BJSHS science teacher, Robert Mock.



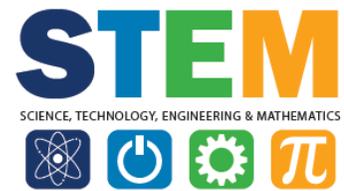
"If you look at the field of robotics today, you can say robots have been in the deepest of oceans, they've been to Mars, you know? They've been all these places, but they're just now starting to come into your living room. Your living room is the final frontier for robots."
— Cynthia Breazeal

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Students will learn real-world applications of robotics systems as exemplified by this construction industry robot.



What's the Difference?

If you are familiar with the technology or educational sectors, you have undoubtedly heard that STEM, which is an educational focus in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, is being changed to STEAM to include the arts. This is an initiative that is being accepted on an increasing scale by institutions, corporations, and education and technology professionals.

STEAM education incorporates the "A" for the arts – recognizing that to be successful in technical fields, individuals must also be creative and use critical thinking skills which are best developed through exposure to the arts. Beaverton Schools have **exceptional** K-12 arts programming including:

- Fine Arts
- Graphic Arts
- Instrumental Arts
- Performing Arts (Choir, Drama, Forensics)
- Vocational & Industrial Arts (via Clare-Gladwin Regional Education Service District)

The U.S. Department of Education reports that the number of STEM/STEAM jobs in the United States will grow by 14% from 2010 to 2020, growth that is much faster than the national average of 5-8% across all job sectors.

Robotics Continued...

Beaverton, Michigan is widely known as "home" to some of the most technologically advanced, plastics thermoforming companies in the world. Robotics play an important role in that industry and offer students many learning opportunities...right in our own back yard!

Our hope is that a Robotics Club will build interest and enthusiasm in STEAM throughout our schools and community. We look forward to keeping you informed of students' progress with the program and their robotics competitions with other schools.

Beaverton Pride Warms Hearts

This holiday season many of our students and families were provided with essential clothing items, gifts and/or food to lessen the financial burden of holiday traditions.

Hundreds of students and families were helped thanks to our school nurse, Joanne Clagg and several students, staff, and community members. Nurse Clagg worked tirelessly throughout the month of November to work with families who would benefit from some assistance.

Donations from staff members, local businesses, and other students/parents poured in! The week before Christmas, several home-deliveries of presents and food were completed.

Thank you to all who assisted our Beaverton Rural Schools families. Beaverton is truly a loving community who consistently reaches into their pockets and hearts to support each other.



HOUR OF CODE

What is it?

Mrs. Wohlschlegel promotes the Hour of Code every year. It's a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries. Anyone, anywhere can organize an Hour of Code event. One-hour tutorials are available in over 45 languages. No experience is needed and can include ages 4 to 104.

For schools with robotics instruction, there are four robotics partners who support the Hour of Code and offer free robot-related activities.

Partners include:

- Ozobot
- Sphero
- Wonder Workshop
- BirdBrain Technologies, LLC



Coding in kindergarten!

Elementary Students Learn Computer Programming Skills

Article Credit: Erin Wohlschlegel, BES Technology Instructor

For the third year in a row, all Beaverton Elementary School (BES) students participated in the international event Hour of Code. Students joined millions of other learners all over the world to discover computer programming.

BES technology instructor, Erin Wohlschlegel explains, "Students used free software from Kodable, Code.org, Tinkers and Disney, which use 'blockly,' a brick-type computer language that enables young students to understand advanced CS programming concepts such as conditionals, loops and functions."

Pictured below are fifth graders, Kylie Kasper and Laken Longstreth tutoring kindergarteners from Mrs. Revis's classroom.



Child Passenger Restraints on Buses

Article Credit: Marietta Andrist, Director of Transportation & Operations

With recent national focus on child passenger restraints on school buses, the following excerpt from the National Safety Council's eleven-page Position/Policy Statement adopted by the Council in July 2016 will increase your frame of reference on the matter:

"Every weekday during the school year, school transportation systems in the United States operate approximately 440,000 school buses to provide safe, reliable transportation for more than 24 million school-aged children. This sizeable transportation system is considered the largest mass transit program in the nation, with more than 55 million student trips per day, equating to approximately 10 billion student trips per year.

School bus transportation is considered the safest form of ground transportation. This is attributed to buses being very conspicuous, larger and heavier than most other vehicles and a system approach to ensure proper driver selection and training. Crash forces are distributed throughout the vehicle differently and are also experienced by occupants differently. In addition, passenger seating and crash protection, known as "compartmentalization," has been required on school buses since 1977. However, in order for compartmentalization to provide maximum protection, occupants must be seated correctly in vehicle seats, meaning upright, fully in the bus seat and facing forward."

The long-standing debate regarding seat belts on school buses continues at the national and state level, along with discussions about the immense amount of funding that school districts would need to install lap and shoulder belts throughout their bus fleet.

Calendar Reminders

JAN 13	HALF-DAY STUDENTS, END OF SECOND MARKING PERIOD, STAFF RECORDS DAY
JAN 18	HALF-DAY STUDENTS, STAFF PD
FEB 8	STUDENT COUNT DAY
FEB 17	NO STUDENTS – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MAR 8	HALF-DAY STUDENTS, STAFF PD
MAR 24	HALF-DAY STUDENTS, END OF THIRD MARKING PERIOD, STAFF RECORDS DAY
MAR 25-APR 2	NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK
APR 3	SCHOOL RESUMES
APR 11&12	SAT TESTING
APR 14	NO SCHOOL—GOOD FRIDAY

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