

WCSD is En Route

Individuals increasingly must understand the subjects collectively known as STEAM to thrive in today's society, and schools accordingly are challenged to provide high-quality innovative learning experiences and environments to all students. Teachers are at the forefront of meeting this challenge, and the quality of their instruction therefore acts as a major fulcrum for improving education, by developing knowledge and skills in our students to solve tough problems, gather and evaluate evidence, and make sense of information.

Through the use of Three Technology Integration Specialists and a STEAM Professional Developer, teachers and students at WCSD are meeting the STEAM challenge head on.

Students in grade 1 had to address the newly adopted New York Science and Learning Standards (NYSSLS) as well as International Society for Technology in Education standards (ISTE). Students had to work through a series of cross curricular hands-on, as well as technology enhanced lessons. The students employed Science and Engineering Practices (What Scientists Do) as well as Crosscutting Concepts (How Scientists Think). In this unit grade 1 students had to explore concepts of, "Structure, Function, and Information Processing. The students worked through an instructional webpage as they addressed how plants and animals vary from one generation to the next and are similar but not exactly like their parents. The students explored how plants and animals use unique external body parts to survive and how engineers use certain strategies from plants and animals as inspiration to design solutions for humans. The culminating project involved students working through tinkercad and 3D printing to represent biomimicry.