

Welcome to O'Brien STEM Academy!



Why a STEM focus?

Children are naturally curious about the world, and STEM education takes advantage of that natural curiosity to engage children in their learning.

Curricula in all areas have been redesigned with a focus on inquiry based education. Students in math, science, language arts and social studies are discovering how to approach their learning by exploring the world, asking questions about the world and presenting problems to be solved.

Inquiry based learning engages children in high level thinking and problem solving as they gather and reflect on information and develop understanding about their world.

Science

Students are engaged in science for one hour every day, following a structured inquiry process in which they observe, ask questions, plan and conduct investigations, and share their new understandings with each other.



Engineering

Through the engineering component at O'Brien, students participate in a design process that engages their imagination and allows them to see the connection between what they learn and the real world. The engineering modules also incorporate technological literacy, which is a foundational 21st Century literacy skill.

Students who experience engineering at the elementary level develop their problem-solving skills and increase their awareness of engineering and science careers. They learn that they can be innovators not only today, but tomorrow, too!

Technology

Students at O'Brien STEM Academy have access to technology on a daily basis. They learn how to utilize technology as a tool to enhance their learning and communication skills.

All STEM classrooms are equipped with SMART Boards, iPads and document cameras and have access to a variety of web-based programs that are used to enhance instruction. Students use iPads, digital cameras and other means to expand and communicate their learning. Student response systems (clickers) provide a motivating opportunity for students to keep track of their own learning in the classroom.



Mathematics

Math instruction at O'Brien STEM Academy also focuses on inquiry based instruction. Students are involved in developing questions and answering those questions through their work in the classroom. Students use technology on a daily basis with programs such as FASTT Math and Fraction Nation to build fluency in math skills. This fluency helps students as they apply their understanding of math to more complex problems in math and science.

O'Brien STEM Academy



Robert J. O'Brien STEM Academy

56 Farm Drive
East Hartford, CT 06108

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Robert J. O'Brien STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Academy is designed for students who are curious about their world and interested in learning through a hands-on, inquiry-based approach. The use of technology to increase student engagement and learning is embedded in all subjects. Children are engaged in high level thinking and problem solving as they explore and ask questions about their world and gather and reflect on information.



For more information, please contact::

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Robert J. O'Brien STEM Academy Mission Statement

The O'Brien STEM Academy community will work in partnership to educate all students to their fullest potential. We will ensure that our students develop into respectful citizens and world-class learners who are prepared to meet global challenges in the 21st century.



Hours: 8:45-3:20

Enhanced learning opportunities:

- School courtyard and local school environment are used for field opportunities and environmental studies
- Field trips and in-class outreach programs
- Science Buddies with younger grades
- After school enrichment opportunities
- Community Partnerships