



STEM Programming

School Facilities Referendum Election Day: April 4, 2017

During the April 4, 2017 election, voters who reside in Hawthorn School District 73 will be asked to vote on whether the Board of Education should make a \$42 million investment in school facilities funding to help accommodate our growth and maintain our commitment to educational excellence, based on the vision set forth in the Hawthorn 73 Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP). The community-driven EFMP provides the vision for how we will adapt our facilities to meet our growth needs and provide the innovative, technology driven education our students need to thrive in the 21st century.

The Hawthorn 73 EFMP provides for STEM center additions at all elementary schools, as well as STEM center renovations at all middle schools. The EFMP also provides for 21st Century Media (Innovative Workspace) renovations.

“Too many of our students fail to graduate from high school with the basic skills they will need to succeed in the 21st century economy...Although our top universities continue to rank among the best in the world, too few American students are pursuing degrees in science and technology.”

– Bill Gates, Testimony on STEM to the U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology

What is STEM?

STEM is an educational program focusing on the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math. STEM centers allow staff to prepare lessons centered on finding solutions to real world problems with an emphasis on project-based exploration and critical thinking, where students learn through inquiry, logical reasoning, and collaboration.

For more information about the Hawthorn 73 EFMP, scan this QR code.



Why STEM?

All Hawthorn 73 students should be prepared to think deeply and creatively, providing them with the foundation to become the innovators, educators, researchers, and leaders who solve the most pressing challenges facing our nation and our world, now and for future generations. STEM-based curriculum equips students to solve real-world problems and think proactively and creatively—preparing students to be competitive in the global marketplace.

How will STEM be implemented?

The Hawthorn 73 EFMP provides for STEM-based learning environments that are flexible and adaptable to student needs, giving students opportunities to learn how they work best in various situations and on a variety of tasks. These spaces will be equipped with materials to support problem solving and creativity. Technology, building and construction materials, and tools for design and drafting will come together to support students as they engage collaboratively in activities that require them to think creatively.

The workplace and our schools have changed. Physical environments can greatly impact productivity, creativity, and imagination. STEM centers, specifically designed with science, engineering, and the creative arts in mind, will be critical to the implementation of a STEM curriculum that provides students with the skillsets for success in high school and beyond.

Offering dynamic STEM programming that benefits all students is fundamental to maintaining Hawthorn 73’s commitment to educational excellence and supporting our vision to inspire all students to embrace learning in an ever changing world.



93 OUT OF 100

STEM careers have wages above the national average
– U.S. Department of Labor

STEM EMPLOYMENT



between May 2009 to May 2015, compared to **5.2% growth** in non-STEM employment.
– U.S. Department of Labor

STEM careers are growing at double the rate of other occupations, with accelerated growth in fields like computer science and engineering.

– U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Commerce



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