



THE BWL STEAM PROGRAM GRADES K-5

The STEAM program at BWL is a school wide initiative meant to bridge the divide between the humanities and STEM. In the Lower School, one of the ways STEAM is integrated into BWL's curriculum is through BWL's Poetry Initiative.

The STEAM Program in the Lower School is integrated into all aspects of the curriculum, promoting inquiry-based learning for all students. Meetings are held throughout the year, led by the Lower School Director of STEAM in order to help integrate Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and mathematics into each grade's curriculum.

Students in grades K-2 use iPads in their classrooms, while students in grades 3-5 have access to Chromebooks. In Computer class, students hone skills such as keyboarding and coding.

Each grade participates in weekly poetry lessons that study form as a ways to incorporate multidisciplinary understanding into lower school studies. These lessons culminate in poetry presentations at the Global Poetry Festival which have included; poetry readings, student made light projectors which project student poems, student made songs, a poetry calendar, and expositions of Digital Magnetic Poetry (BWL's educational technology). In Science class, each grade completes a STEAM project that coincides with its curriculum. Science related field trips are planned throughout the year.

All students in the Lower School complete monthly STEAM challenges during which they work in small groups to problem-solve, using inquiry skills to engineer a solution. Additionally, the Lower School Math Chair provides students with a *Math Question of the Month*.

There is a Maker Space in the Lower School that holds a "materials library". These materials are always accessible to Lower School teachers for use in their classrooms and in the Maker Space itself. There is also a Lego Wall available for children's exploration.

Throughout the year, there are guest speakers and assemblies for the Lower School students. Some of the interactive STEAM assemblies last year included a visit from the *Liberty Science Center* and *BOT! The Secret World of Robots* and a *Global Poetry Festival*.

(*Please visit our website www.bwl.org and click "Academics" and then click "STEAM Initiative" for more detailed and current information.)