



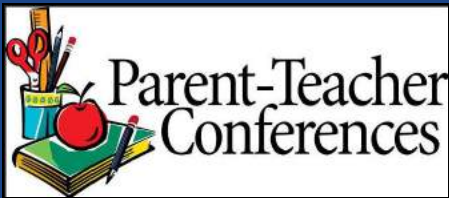
Austintown Middle School **STEM Newsletter**



October 2016

Calendar

Nov. 8- Election Day
Nov. 9- 2 hr. Early Release
Nov. 11- Veteran's Day Assembly
Nov. 21- Camfel Productions
Nov. 22- Conference Night
Nov. 23-25- Thanksgiving Break



Parent Teacher Conferences will be Tues. Nov. 22th from 2:45-9:00 pm and are first come, first serve. A link from Doodle was sent via email Friday, Oct 28.

[Sign up for conferences here.](#)



Deanna received a letter and materials from Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine in response to her business letter.



Austintown Middle School STEM students pose in front of the Butler Art Museum on the field trip to YSU.

Greetings,

STEM is in full swing as students have concluded the end of the first nine weeks. There have been many exciting events throughout this past month. We had our first field trip to YSU, Applied System Technology Transfer and America Makes. They also attended a Manufacturing Workshop at the Mahoning County Career and Technical Center and experienced first-hand, cutting edge technology. Also, the students held their first Jr. STEM meeting. Many interested 6th graders attended the Jr. STEM meeting and learned about 3D printing, robotics, and other STEM skills.

Report cards will go home with the students by Friday, Nov. 4th. Parent-teacher conference will take place Tuesday, Nov 22. See the box to the left regarding conference times and click on the link to schedule a conference.



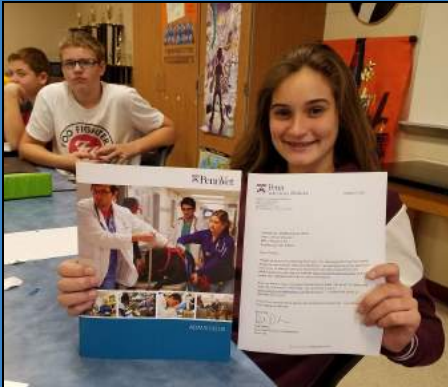
Students listen to an engineer at America Makes.



Randy and Jack participate in the MCCTC Manufacturing event. They learned sometimes you have to “charge through failure on the path to success”.



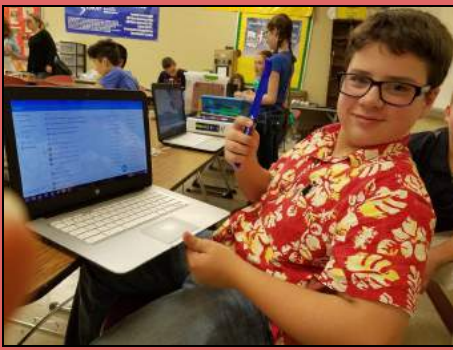
Students visited the fluorescent display at the Geology museum at YSU.



Chelsea displays her letter from the Penn State Veterinarian Program she received in response to her business letter she wrote them.



Students at the Ward Beecher Planetarium learning about black holes and the current stars in the night sky.



John displays his slap bracelet he received from the MCCTC Manufacturing event. Hidden inside was a USB port to access pictures and videos about the MCCTC and manufacturing.



The boys learned about different types of engineering at the MCCTC Manufacturing event.



Emma troubleshoots a blown fan in the 3D printer with the assistance of Colin.



Students took a group "selfie" at America Makes.



Anthony displays his materials from the MIT School of Electrical Engineering. He even received a circuit kit!

7th Grade

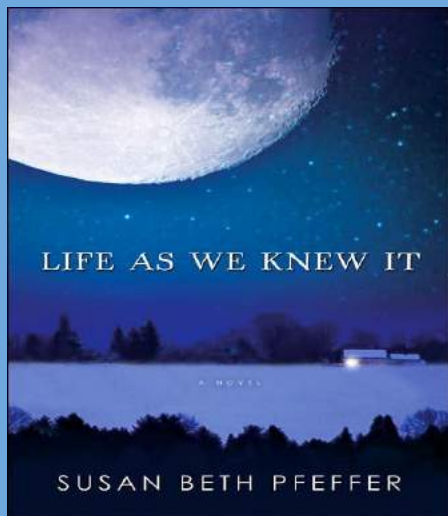
- ★ Students are finishing up the unit, *Accentuate the Negative* and are solving real-life problems using the concepts of adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing negative and positive integers.
- ★ Students are researching the effects of the tides, moon phases and how cyclic patterns affect the earth. Next, they will study the water cycle and water conservation in our area.



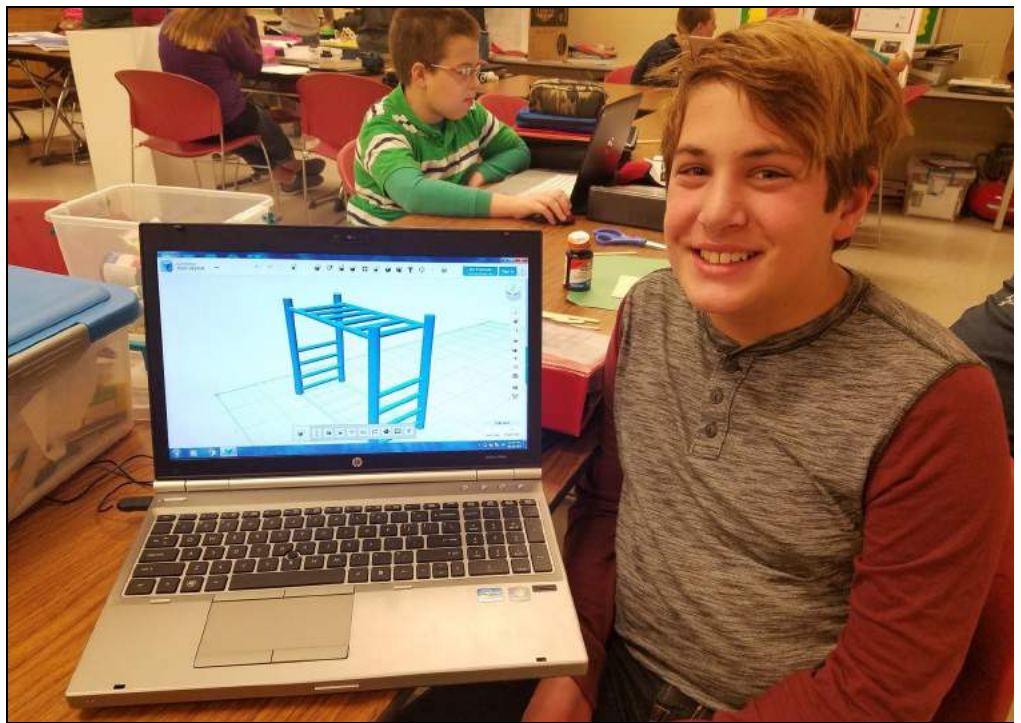
Report cards will go home with students by Friday, Nov. 4th



Please check out [Schoolology.com](https://www.schoolology.com) for access to assignments and activities from class. The phone app is awesome!

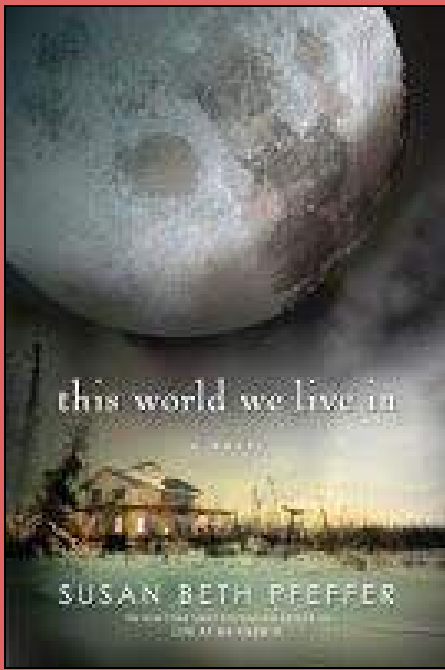


7th graders just finished the page-turner, *Life As We Knew It* and currently writing a literary analysis of the book.

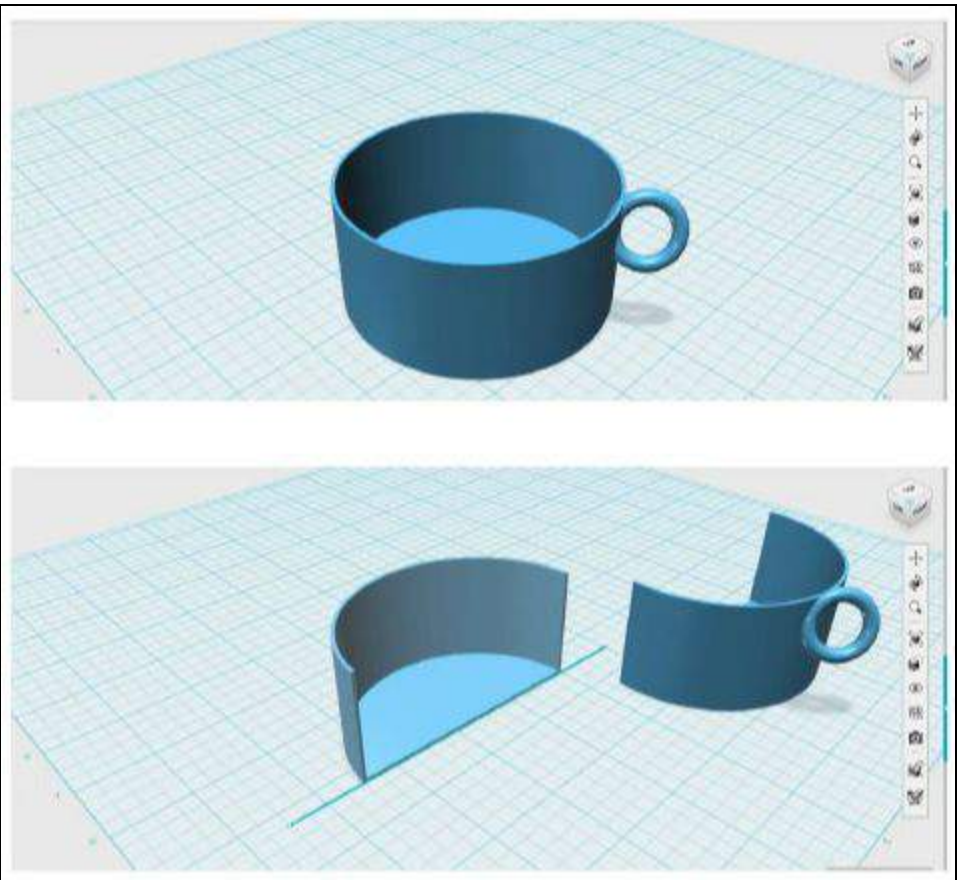


Nick poses with pride at his 3D designed monkey bars. Next, he plans on adding elements of Ancient Chinese architecture as part of the ancient civilization playground project.

- ★ All students are currently using Google Docs to create presentations and documents. They are able to collaborate with each other on working documents. Ask them and they will show you how!
- ★ Students are concluding the *Design and Modeling* unit by designing their own ancient civilization playground. Students are working with a partner researching and creating a playground based on the culture of an ancient civilization of their choice. They are applying the whole design process, including creating working drawings and scaled sketches, building in AutoCAD, and 3D printing working models of their creations. These projects will be presented at parent-teacher conference night.
- ★ 7th Graders finished, *Life as we Knew it*, by Susan B Pfeffer and are writing a literary analysis of the text. This is a very exciting story, and the first of three novels they will read in the series. Soon they will tackle, *The Westing Game*.



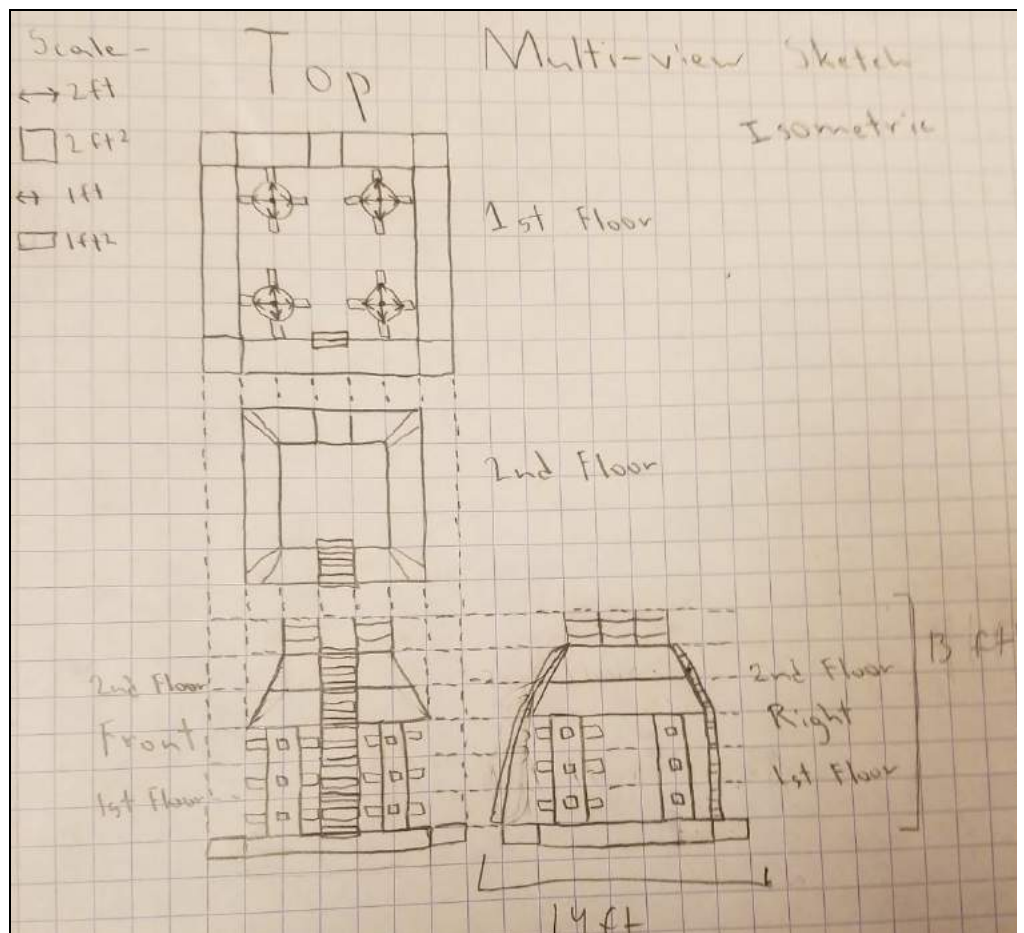
8th graders just finished, *This World We Live In*. It is the third book in the series and a huge hit among students. Next, they will tackle *Animal Farm*, which aligns well with the upcoming elections.



Sarah displays her coffee mug designed using both additive and subtractive manufacturing techniques.



Vincent and Aliva were all ready to present their projects to 6th graders at the first Jr. STEM meeting.



Thomas displays his orthographic sketches for his Japanese pagoda as part of his ancient civilization playground project.

8th Grade

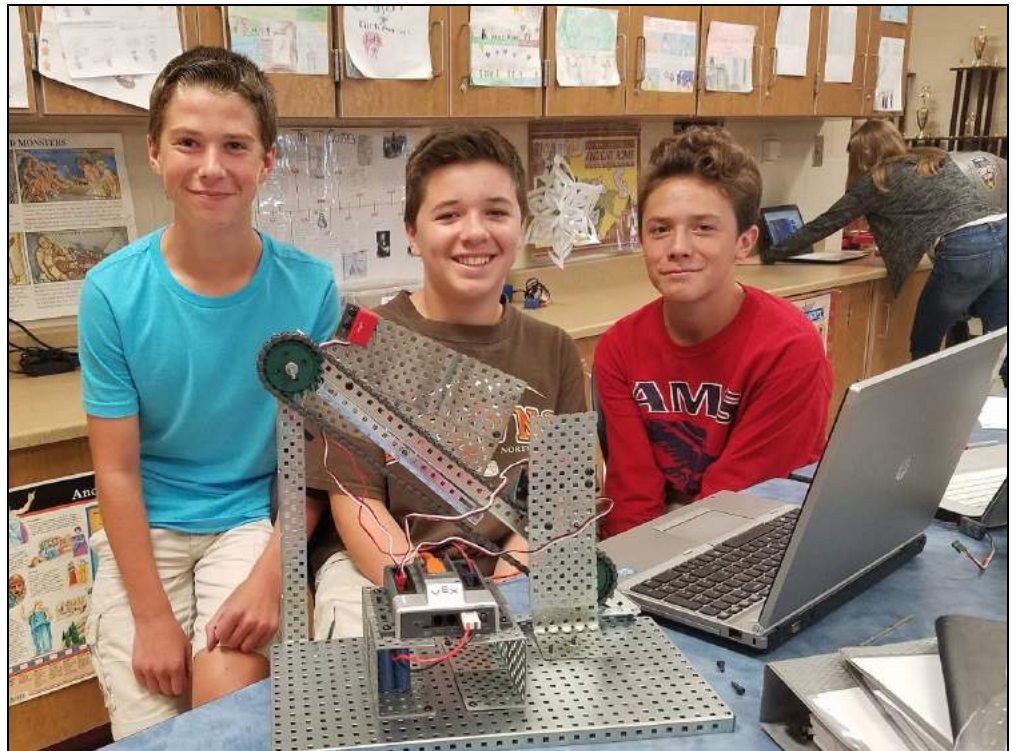


Students learned the proper way to handshake at the MCCTC Manufacturing Event.

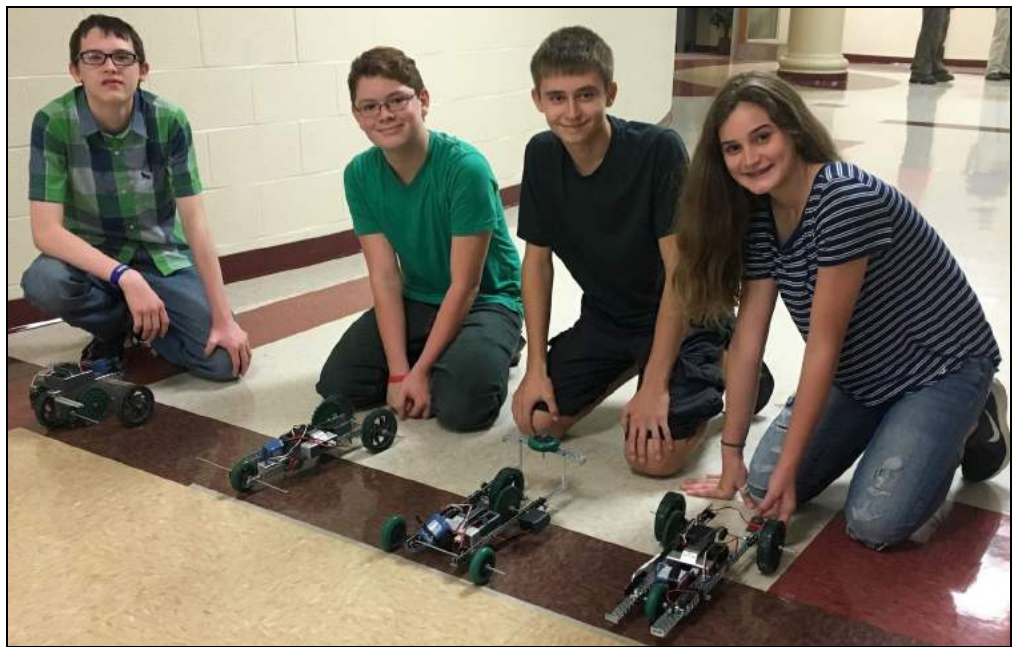
- ★ The students finished up the VEX First Engineering Job and it was a huge success. Students had to apply programming and building skills to create an engineering marvel. Students made automated chairs for going up stairs, cars using many motors and sensors, and a cardio regulator machine that runs at the speed of a heartbeat. We will revisit VEX later in the year to build on this progress.
- ★ Eighth graders are beginning the STEM unit, *Magic of Electrons*. They were introduced to the periodic table of elements and have tested out various conductors and insulators in the classroom.
- ★ In Science, students are continuing with their studies of the Earth and its geological processes. Recent focus has been on map reading and using critical thinking skills to understand topographical maps, satellite imaging, and aerial views.
- ★ We also continued our reading of *The Last Survivor Series* from last year with the third book, *This World we Live in*.



Students in math are using Khan Academy to access certain lessons specifically chosen to strengthen your child's skills. Plus it's fun!



Joe, Connor, and Zane pose with "Grandma's Chair", an automated chair designed to take you up and down stairs with a push of a button, complete with an emergency switch.



Connor, Joey, Connor, and Chelsea display their automated cars designed for speed at the push of a button.

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[Austintown STEM Website](#)

[AMS STEM Student Website](#)

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