



Tuesday, May 16, 2023

**Oakland School to dedicate its Innovation Studio
10 a.m. Wednesday, May 17, 2023
Oakland Elementary School, 611 S. 21st St.**

Oakland Elementary School will officially dedicate its Innovation Studio at 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 17, at the school.

Funded by a grant from IN-MaC Indiana Next Generation Manufacturing Competitiveness Center, the Innovation Studio is a high-tech classroom stocked with the latest in technological equipment. It's an early introduction to STEM principles, which will be useful throughout their time in school.

It may look as if students are playing with building blocks and crafting. But in the Innovation Studio, discovery and creativity are fostering learning and critical thinking. This high-tech classroom features computers, robotic arms and 3D printers. All students spend time in the room every week, where they can let their imaginations run wild as they create, build and explore.

Teacher Kristi Serra says it's an amazing space for students to hone skills. "It's a safe place to think, build and wonder," she says. The skills learned in the Innovation Studio, she says, will be used in upper-level coursework and will continue to have applications throughout their lifetime.

Oakland Elementary School, part of the Lafayette School Corporation, is a K-4 school in the heart of the city. It offers innovative learning experiences and operates on a balanced calendar. Debbie Patterson serves as principal.

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