

FUTURE READY LAB OPEN HOUSE

Students Learn Through Animatronics

Animatronics come to life in North Kansas City Schools' new Future Ready Lab! The school district is proud to offer students a one-of-a-kind experience in collaboration with [Garner Holt Productions](#), the world's leading manufacturer of theme park animatronics. A ribbon cutting ceremony and open house was held October 30, 2024. About 150 community members were on hand for the event. More pictures from the event are here- <https://tinyurl.com/mvvtf9x6>.

Many had the opportunity to operate the animatronic figures making their arms, mouth and body move. Speakers included NKC Schools Superintendent Dr. Rochel Daniels, Board of Education President Jan Kauk, Future Ready Lab Coordinator Cammy Neth and Garner Holt. Garner Holt Productions has hundreds of animatronics in Disney parks around the world. Representatives from McCownGordon Construction and Hollis Miller Architects were also on hand. Both companies worked together to create the unique learning space.



The Future Ready Lab allows students to design and program several animatronics in the lab. They work in teams to create lively and engaging animatronic shows that demonstrate their learning of a concept, topic, or theme. Students engage in a variety of STEAM activities from programming one of the five robots with ten independently controlled motors, to script writing, voice acting, lighting and sound, set design, costuming, prop making, and more. With this unique project-based learning, students discover their interests, talents and passions all while learning valuable skills.

Cammy Neth, Future Ready Lab Coordinator says, the lab will take student's learning experiences to a whole new level, "Animatronics serve as a powerful bridge between

imagination and technology, offering endless learning opportunities that spark creativity, engineering skills, and an appreciation for the art of storytelling."

Currently fifth grade students at 4 elementary schools are taking part in this project including Clardy, Briarcliff, Northview and Ravenwood. Students from our Program for Exceptionally Gifted Students (PEGS) are also learning in the lab. A full roll out to include all district schools is expected in the fall of 2025.

Garner Holt Productions began the [Education Through Imagination](#) program to reach out excite and inspire the next generation of students to explore careers in STEAM. Since Holt and Missouri both share a strong connection to Disney, it made sense to locate a Future Ready Lab in the state. [More about Garner Holt](#).

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