



WIDEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT 3

THE WIDEFIELD WAY

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BUILDING TOMORROW'S
INNOVATORS TODAY

A robotics team competes at the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) El Paso County Qualifier using a robot they built and coded to complete obstacles.



Fifth grade students used STEM kits to investigate matter through food. Students learned about properties of matter through observing and exploring food mixtures. The kits help students explore, think, and problem-solve.



The WSD3 community can enjoy the same 3D printers students do at schools at the Security Public Library.

choose. Our STEMologists represent the spirit of innovation we're building across WSD3.

BY SAM BRIGGS
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

Widefield School District 3 (WSD3) has been dedicated to expanding STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education for over a decade. Our commitment goes beyond traditional learning, creating hands-on opportunities for students to explore, innovate, and grow in these vital areas. Across all WSD3 schools, students have access to makerspaces, bringing consistency to STEM education across grade levels. We're even extending this opportunity to our community with makerspaces at the Security Public Library, where community members can experience the same resources our students use.

STEM continues to be a focus in WSD3 because the skills students learn—like problem-solving, creativity, and adaptability—are essential for success in nearly any industry. According to the National Science Foundation, a strong STEM foundation is critical for staying competitive in today's global economy. Early exposure to these fields helps students find their passion and equips them for real-world success.

Year of Elementary STEM

This year, we're excited to spotlight K-5 STEM education in what we're calling the "Year of Elementary STEM." With funding from a Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) grant, we've provided every elementary school with STEM kits tailored to each grade level. These kits cover a wide range of topics, from earth patterns to energy, forces, and material properties. The curriculum is designed to be immersive, allowing students to discuss, read, build, and use technology for a well-rounded, hands-on learning experience.

We've designed these experiences to be inclusive, ensuring every student has access to STEM opportunities. By making STEM accessible and engaging for young learners, we're laying a strong foundation for their future success.

STEMologists - Leading the Way

Our junior high students are taking their STEM skills to the next level, with a group of young "STEMologists" graduating this year. So far this school year, 123 students have earned a certification. These students have demonstrated advanced skills in areas like 3D printing, aviation, game design, and robotics. Mastering these next-generation skills positions them as future leaders in whichever career paths they

STEM Industry Certifications

At the high school level, students have the opportunity to earn industry-recognized certifications, ensuring they're career-ready, whether they pursue college or jump straight into the workforce. WSD3 offers certifications in:

- Entry-Level Python
- CompTIA IT Fundamentals
- SolidWorks
- Engineering and Robotics
- FAA Part 107 Drone Licenses

In the 2023-2024 school year, 67 high school students earned certifications, and so far this year, 35 high school students have already achieved theirs. These certifications allow students to gain critical skills that make them competitive in today's job market and open doors to high-demand careers.

STEM in WSD3 is more than a curriculum—it's a pathway for every student to learn, explore, and lead in an ever-evolving world. With our dedicated programs, we're ensuring that WSD3 students are prepared to tackle the challenges and seize the opportunities of tomorrow. Learn more at stem.wsd3.org.

Students enrolled in Welding learn the basics of oxy-acetylene welding and torch cutting, wire feed/MIG welding and plasma cutting, and earn their OSHA-10 Safety Certification.

Career & Technical Education (CTE) Snapshot in WSD3



CTE ensures a thriving Colorado economy by providing relevant and rigorous education that is connected, responsive, and real.

CTE Programs

- Audio-Video/Sound Engineering
- Business/Marketing
- Education/Teacher Cadet
- Engineering & Computer IT/Robotics
- Health Science/Biomed Science
- Welding
- Hospitality/Catering
- Multimedia/Print & Digital Media
- Construction, Cabinet Manufacturing
- Technical Theater
- Automotive
- ACE (Alternative Cooperative Education)
- Contracted Programs: Hair/Nails/Esthetics & A Glimpse Into Flight Training

Student Industry Certifications:

- Business
- Cabinet Manufacturing
- Computer Science
- Construction
- Health Science

- Multimedia Arts/Audio-Video
- Robotics/Engineering
- Welding

Career & Technical Student Organization (CTSO) Opportunities:

- DECA/FBLA - Business
- FCCLA - Hospitality/Education
- HOSA - Health Science
- Robotics
- SkillsUSA - Skilled Trades
- SC2 - ACE

Did You Know?

- CTE is in every junior high and high school in WSD3
- Students can earn college credit in some CTE courses
- AP Computer Science is a CTE class
- CTE uses a course scope and sequence that aligns with state academic standards
- WSD3 offers Work-Based Learning Opportunities such as:
 - Internships
 - Job Shadows
 - Work Experience

New Class Takes Flight: Preparing High School Students for Careers in Aviation

Widefield School District 3(WSD3) is introducing an exciting new opportunity for high school students interested in the world of aviation and aerospace.

The Glimpse Into Flight Training (GIFT) class by Falcon AeroLab is led by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-certified instructors and is designed to help students explore career paths in aviation while preparing for the FAA Private Pilot written examination, an essential step for anyone aspiring to become a commercial pilot.

Opening Doors to Aviation Careers

The Glimpse Into Flight Training is unique in preparing students for an FAA certification while they're still in high school. Students can earn three flight hours during the course.

"There are very few high schools offering a program like this," said James Densmore, GIFT instructor. "It's an early step towards becoming a private or even commercial pilot."

Students in the program will gain valuable aviation knowledge and skills, which will set them up for success in both college and the workforce.

"We're teaching them how to think critically and giving them a strong foundation in aeronautics," Densmore added.

These skills are essential for students pursuing careers in aviation or related fields.

Hands-On Learning and Simulations

AeroLab offers more than just classroom learning. Students have the chance to engage in hands-on activities, including classes on aircraft mechanics and opportunities to learn to fly.

"They can experience flight training for both gliders and fixed-wing airplanes, with this class preparing them for the FAA written exam," Densmore explained.

Staying Current in a Fast-Paced Industry

Instructors keep the curriculum up-to-date by continuously pursuing their own education.

"We all participate in FAA and AOPA programs, recurrent training, and stay informed through aviation news media," said Densmore. This ensures students are learning the latest in aviation technology and industry trends.

The new class is offered to all high school students in WSD3. It offers a unique opportunity for students to explore their passions and take the first steps toward exciting careers in aviation. With hands-on learning and expert instructors, the sky truly is the limit for students who join the program.

Widefield School District 3 CELEBRATES 150 YEARS

Widefield School District 3 (WSD3) is celebrating 150 years of pride, tradition, and innovation. The school district was organized in 1874. From humble beginnings as a one-room schoolhouse in the Fountain Valley, WSD3 has grown to a thriving district of 18 schools, several support departments, a public library (Security Public Library) and a dynamic parks and recreation department (Widefield Parks and Recreation.)

The district's legacy is built on the dedication of countless educators and supportive families committed to helping every child learn, grow, and achieve. We'll be creating a time capsule of items from our schools to place inside the central administration building in the spring. The time capsule will be set to open in 2074. Take a journey down memory lane by visiting "Our History" on wsd3.org.





SAVE THE DATE

Community Conversation

Facility Audit & Critical Needs

When: Thursday, January 30, 2025

Time: 5 - 6 PM

Location: WSD3 Preschool,
209 Leta Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80911





Spring Registration

Opens January 1

SCAN TO VIEW OUR PROGRAM GUIDE



REGISTER ONLINE, IN PERSON, BY PHONE

Widefield Parks & Recreation
755 Aspen Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80911
ParksAndRec.wsd3.org - (719) 391-3515





Leave your mark at Widefield Parks & Recreation by adding a brick to our Brick Garden.

Order your brick online:
<https://donate.brickmarkers.com/wide>

SECURITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Books are only the beginning!

**MAKERSPACE!
CLASSES!
COMPUTERS & PRINTING!
STORY TIMES!
CRAFTS!
AND SO MUCH MORE!**

SCAN ME!



CHECK OUT EVERYTHING YOUR LIBRARY HAS TO OFFER!

www.securitypubliclibrary.org



OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open enrollment is for:

- Students wanting to attend a WSD3 school outside their neighborhood
- Families living outside WSD3 boundaries
- Current choice students transitioning to a new school level

Submit your boundary waiver by **February 28, 2025**, to secure priority placement!



ENROLL NOW

 www.wsd3.org/enroll-in-widefield