

STEAM Connections

Magnet Academies

JANUARY 2025

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE MAGNET COORDINATOR

Happy New Year, Magnet Academies families!



As we step into 2025, I am thrilled to share the exciting opportunities ahead for our students, families, and community. January marks the official opening of applications for the upcoming school year, and we are eagerly preparing for our first-ever Magnet Academies Showcase on February 22, 2025, at the brand-new St. Martin Magnet Academies Performing Arts Center. This will be a fantastic opportunity for families to explore our STEAM programs, meet our educators, and see firsthand the innovative learning experiences our students enjoy every day.

January also brought an unexpected surprise—our first winter storm and snowfall! While the cold weather may have briefly slowed things down, our students remain energized as they dive into their second semester of STEAM learning. We are excited to see them continue thriving as they explore science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics in creative and hands-on ways.

We also have several Open Houses and Information Sessions scheduled throughout January and beyond. These events provide valuable insight into our program and allow families to ask questions and see the STEAM experience in action. Whether you're a current magnet family or considering joining us, we encourage you to attend and learn more about what makes our Magnet Academies so special.
Thank you for being part of our growing Magnet Academies community. We look forward to an exciting semester ahead and hope to see you at our upcoming events!

Dr. Jon Downs
Magnet Academies Coordinator

FEBRUARY EVENTS

🎉 Join Us for the Magnet Academies Showcase & Open House!
📅 Date: Saturday, February 22, 2025 🕒 Time: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
📍 Location: St. Martin Magnet Academies Performing Arts Center

Experience the best of STEAM education at our Magnet Academies Showcase & Open House! This exciting event will feature student performances, presentations, and interactive exhibits showcasing the incredible learning happening at our magnet schools.

✅ Engaging student performances & presentations 🎤🎶
✅ Informational stations on after-school STEAM clubs 🔬🎨🤖
✅ A chance to explore STEAM projects and exhibits from our students 🚀📸
✅ Tours of each magnet school immediately following the showcase 🏫👀

This is the perfect opportunity for families to learn more about our innovative magnet programs and discover how STEAM can ignite a love for learning! No registration required—just bring your curiosity and excitement! We can't wait to see you there! 🔥 #STEMtoSTEAM #MagnetAcademies #FutureInnovators

Questions, Comments, Suggestions?

Contact Azi, Magnet Academies Marketing Coordinator!

magnet@saintmartinschools.org

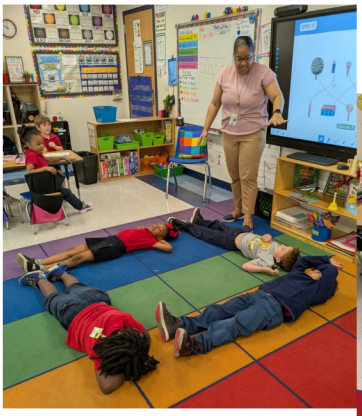
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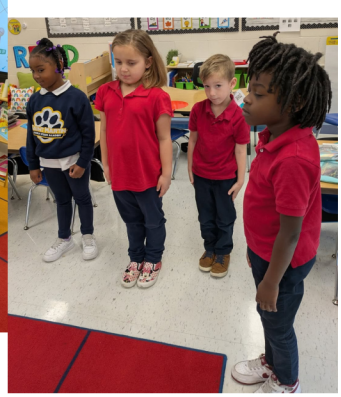
JANUARY EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Measuring Up! 📏🔢 A STEAM-Powered Math Exploration
Preschool students engaged in a hands-on STEAM learning experience by exploring non-standard measurement in math ➗📏. Using linking cubes 🟦🟥, they practiced foundational engineering and mathematical concepts by comparing lengths and measuring objects. This activity promotes critical thinking and problem-solving, key elements of the STEAM approach. To extend their learning, students will graph their results 📊, integrating technology and data analysis skills—essential for real-world applications in science and engineering!









Full-Body Learning! 🌱📏 Exploring Math & Science Through Movement
Kindergarten students are combining math and science in a fun, interactive way by using their bodies to bring concepts to life! They worked together to form a "human square," exploring geometry through movement. Additionally, they brought plant life cycles to life by becoming "seeds, roots, seedlings, trunks, and trees," making science concepts more tangible and engaging. This hands-on, STEAM activity encourages creativity, teamwork, and active learning, fostering both mathematical and scientific thinking!

Hands-On Science! 🌵 Creating Cactus Models in Mrs. Kali's Class

In Mrs. Kali's science class, students are diving into the world of plants by creating models of cacti! This STEAMactivity combines creativity with scientific exploration as students learn about the structure and adaptation of cacti in desert environments. By building their own models, students gain a deeper understanding of plant biology while engaging in hands-on, problem-solving learning. It's a fun and educational way to bring science to life!







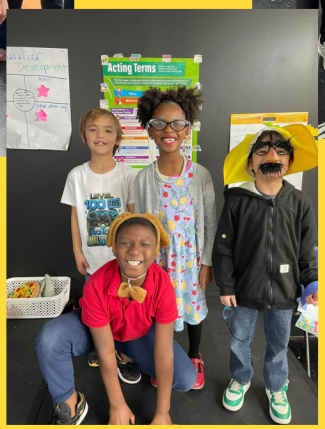
JANUARY EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Theatre Fun in Mrs. Maddy's Class! 🎭✨
Character Creation and Costume Design

It was a STEAM-inspired Friday in Mrs. Maddy's theatre class as students embraced their creativity through character creation and costume design! Students had the opportunity to bring their imaginative characters to life with unique costumes, blending art and performance. This hands-on activity not only nurtured their creativity but also encouraged teamwork and storytelling skills, essential elements of both theatre and STEAM learning!

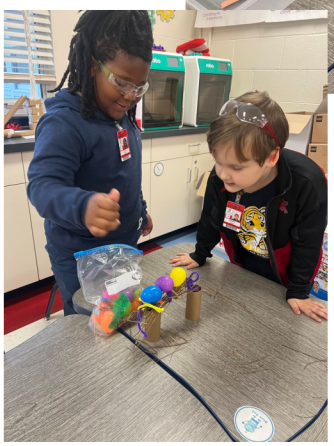














STEM in Action! 🪶🔧 Crafting Bird Nests with Engineering and Design

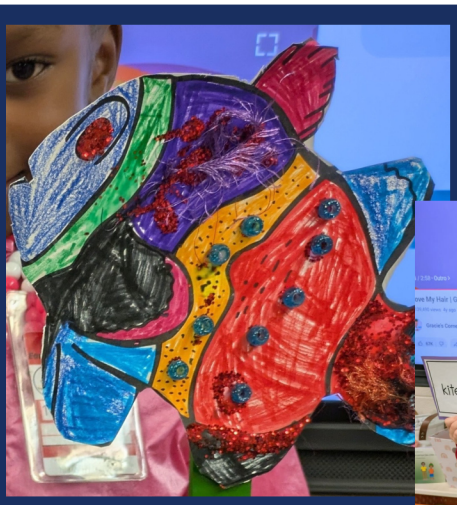
Our students put their STEAM skills to the test by exploring the Engineering and Design Process through a hands-on project! Working with materials like twigs, pipe cleaners, and cardboard tubes, they faced the challenge of designing a bird nest that could securely cradle an egg. Teams collaborated to plan, build, test, and refine their designs, showcasing creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork every step of the way. This engaging activity helped bring engineeringconcepts to life and fostered essential skills for the future!

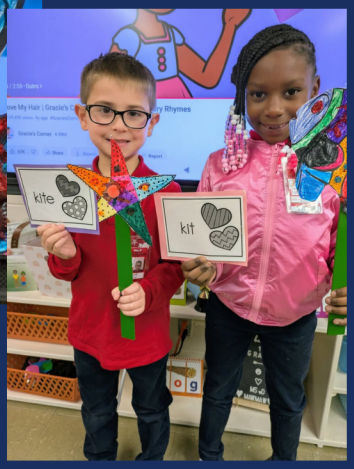
#STEAMEducation
#EngineeringInTheClassroom
#CreativeDesign #Teamwork
#MagnetSchoolLearning

JANUARY EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

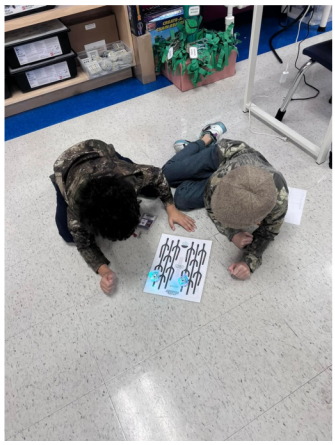
🎭 The Magic of ‘E’ in First Grade! Puppets and Phonics in Action

In Ms. Gregory's class, first graders had a blast learning how the magic 'e' at the end of a word can change its sound! Students created their own puppets and used them to practice reading words like ‘kit’ and ‘kite.’ They had fun “looking for” a partner with the same word but with the magic 'e' added. This hands-on activity combined theater and visual artwith essential English Language Skills, making learning fun and interactive! Great job, Ms. Gregory's class!









🚗💨 Ready, Set, Race! Ozobot Racing in STEM

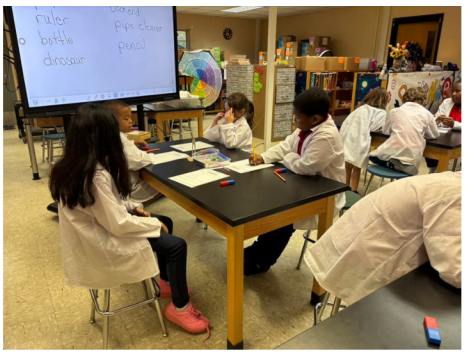
Students participated in an exciting Ozobot racing competition! They carefully selected tracks designed for optimal speed and cheered on their Ozobots as they raced to the finish line. Afterward, students recorded the winners with tally marks, preparing for the next phase of the project—creating a graph to represent their results. This activity not only sparked engineering and coding skills but also integrated data analysis—a true example of STEAM in action!

Exploring Magnetic Forces in 3rd Grade! 🧲🔍

3rd graders are diving into the world of forces, with a special focus on magnetic forces! Through hands-on investigations, students are exploring how magnets attract and repel objects, discovering the invisible forces at work around them. This STEAM activity encourages curiosity, problem-solving, and scientific thinking, helping students build a deeper understanding of the natural world while connecting science concepts to real-life experiences!







JANUARY EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Dancing Through Plant Growth in Mrs. Bruno's Class! 🌱💃

In Mrs. Bruno's class, students brought the process of plant growth to life through creative dance movements! As they danced, students illustrated the stages of a plant's life—from seed to sprout to full-grown plant—connecting movement with scientific understanding. This engaging STEAM activity combined science and theater to help students grasp important biological concepts while expressing their creativity through dance!





🎨🖌️Exploring Value in Visual Art at SMESA!

In Visual Art Class at SMESA, students are diving into the concept of value through painting! They're learning how to create depth and dimension by experimenting with light and dark shades, enhancing their artistic skills and understanding. This STEAM activity combines art and critical thinking, allowing students to express their creativity while mastering important visual art techniques!





🍏🥐 Baking Up Creativity in the Culinary Club!

The Culinary Club at STEAM Academy whipped up some delicious apple turnovers today! Students explored the art of baking while learning about measurement, time management, and the science behind cooking. This hands-on STEAMactivity not only nurtured their culinary skills but also sparked creativity and teamwork in the kitchen. What a tasty way to learn!







STEAM Tips & Resources



STEAM at Home: Design, build, and bring characters to life with the art and engineering of DIY puppetry! Here's an easy project from Dartmouth College:

https://www.dartmouth.edu/dcccc/docs/puppets_from_liz.pdf

Recommended Read:

"The Thing About Swings" by Mona Patel

This book is fun and engaging children's book that introduces young readers to design thinking and problem-solving through a relatable playground adventure, making it a perfect STEAM-inspired read!



Explore STEAM Online:

A great website to explore STEAM online is Exploratorium. You can find hands-on projects, virtual exhibits, and experiments related to STEAM topics.

Visit Exploratorium:

wwww.exploratorium.edu

Share the Great Benefits of Being a STEAM Student!

- UNIQUE, ENGAGING STEAM CURRICULUM
- SMALL CLASS SIZES
- FREE DOOR-TO-DOOR TRANSPORTATION
- FREE AFTER-SCHOOL STEAM CLUBS & AFTERCARE
- FREE SUMMER ENRICHMENT CAMP

Contact Us

St. Martin Parish School System
Magnet Academies

337-944-9269
www.stmartinmagnet.org

Email us to schedule a tour or learn more:
magnet@saintmartinschools.org

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