Barnwell County School District

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For Immediate Release

Barnwell County School District Showcases Commitment to STEM Through Hands-On Learning Opportunities

Barnwell County School District (BCSD) is proud to highlight exciting STEM learning taking place across the district as part of its ongoing commitment to preparing students for success in the 21st century. From building problem-solving skills with Legos to launching new schoolwide events, students in BCSD are gaining valuable skills that extend far beyond the classroom.

STEM in Action at Our Schools

At Macedonia Elementary/Middle School (MEMS), eighth-grade students recently explored the benefits of using Legos as a tool for problem-solving as they built Lego cities. The activity allowed them to develop spatial reasoning, planning, sequencing, and critical thinking skills while strengthening communication and collaboration with their peers. Ms. Charlette Epps, the STEM Lab Facilitator at MEMS, noted outstanding teamwork as her students learned how to effectively communicate and support one another throughout the challenge.



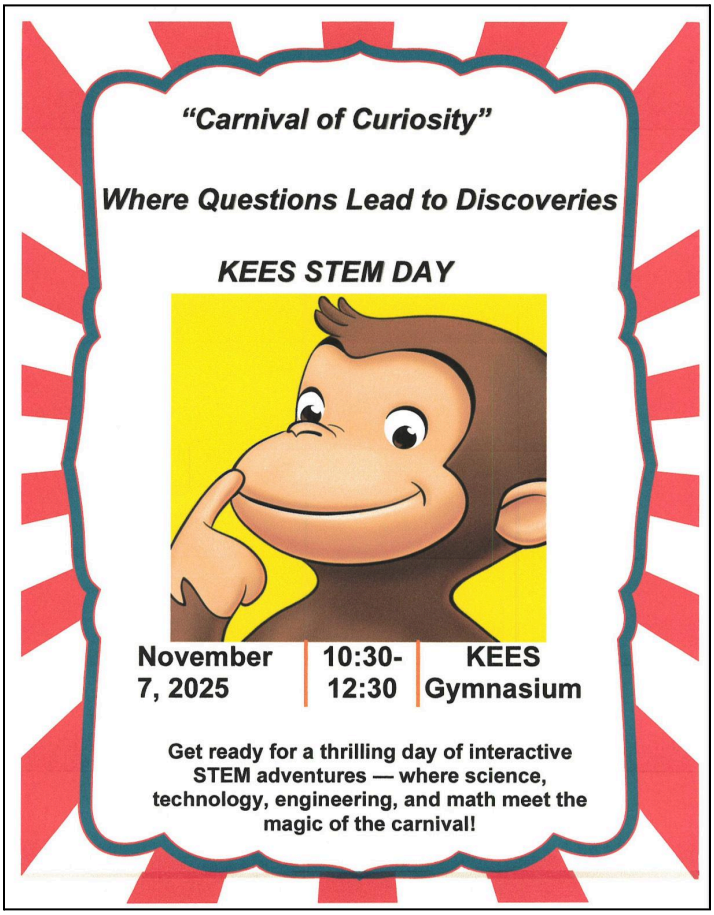
Students at MEMS work on an activity led by Ms. Charlette Epps.



MEMS student work was highlighted when the students showcased their completed Lego city projects.

At Kelly Edwards Elementary School (KEES), excitement is building for the school's first-ever STEM Day event on November 7, 2025. The event, themed "Carnival of Curiosity," will bring together students and families for a special time full of hands-on science,

technology, engineering, and math fun—all with a playful carnival twist. The event, created and led by Mr. Luther Owens STEM Lab Facilitator at KEES, is designed to spark curiosity, celebrate innovation, and bring the KEES community together through engaging STEM experiences.



Districtwide STEM Commitment

A strong foundation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) is more critical than ever before. STEM education equips students with essential skills that foster creativity, problem-solving, and innovation, which are qualities needed to navigate the challenges of today's world. BCSD is committed to providing robust STEM opportunities for all students, from PreK through 12th grade. "Introducing STEM in elementary school builds curiosity, problem solving, and critical thinking early – laying the foundation for students to think, plan, and innovate, and see themselves as creators, not just consumers," said BCSD Chief Academic Officer Debra McCord.

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One of the most exciting aspects of the district's STEM work is the inclusion of dedicated STEM labs in every K–8 school, providing students with access to hands-on tools and real-world applications of STEM concepts. Teachers also integrate STEM principles into everyday learning, ensuring all students build critical thinking and problem-solving skills, regardless of their future career path.

Beyond the school day, BCSD partners with DIG (Dreams, Imagination, and Gift) to offer afterschool programs that encourage deeper exploration into STEM topics. These programs extend learning through collaborative projects, experiments, and engaging activities that nurture curiosity and creativity.

For high school students, the Barnwell County Career Center and local high schools offer certifications and career-focused training in fields such as engineering, computer science, healthcare, cybersecurity, and industrial technology, all ensuring students are career- and college-ready.

Building a Future-Ready Workforce

“Whether our students are in PreK or preparing to graduate high school, STEM education teaches them how to think, how to problem-solve, and how to innovate,” said Superintendent Dr. Crissie Stapleton. “These are foundational skills that serve them in every field, from healthcare to business, agriculture to the arts. Our district is proud to provide these opportunities so that every child in Barnwell County is equipped to succeed.”

BCSD’s focus on STEM also strengthens the local workforce. As industries continue to evolve, the demand for STEM skills is growing. By prioritizing STEM education, Barnwell County is helping to build a pipeline of future leaders and innovators ready to meet the needs of a changing global economy.