



# **Arlington STEM Elementary School**

**February 23, 2026 School Board Presentation**

**Dr. Derek Leininger (Principal)**

**Dr. Caroline Rosado (Asst. Principal)**



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# **We are Arlington**

- **Neighborhood school (neighborhoods near the school and our detached neighborhood)**
- **Most grades have 3 sections, Kindergarten has 4**
- **Three self-contained special education classrooms: Pre-K and two Applied Skills**
- **Three full-day Title I Pre-K classrooms, largest full-day Pre-K program in FWCS (except Bunche and Whitney Young)**
- **Year 1 of STEM implementation**





## **2025 Was a Big Year at Arlington**

- **January- Dr. Brown announced STEM program and school leadership changes**
- **February- Dr. Rosado begins as Asst. Principal**
- **April- Dr. Leininger begins as Principal**
- **May- Ms. Henry hired as STEM teacher**
- **June- Full staff PLTW training**
- **August- Begin Year 1 of STEM implementation**



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# Mission and Vision Statements

- **Mission: Arlington STEM Elementary School will empower students to be 21st century leaders and equip them to be critical thinkers through hands-on, collaborative, project-based learning.**
- **Vision: Arlington STEM Elementary School will be recognized as a school of choice and a community cornerstone by promoting equity, creativity, and innovation.**



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## **Enrollment Numbers**

- **Spring 2025: 438 students**
- **Count Day Feb 2: 512 students (17% increase)**
- **Projection of 530-550 next year and up to 600+ within the next 3-4 years**
- **Each incoming Kindergarten class will be larger than the outgoing 5th grade class**



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# **FWCS School Choice Lottery**

- **2021-2024: Arlington averaged around 10 accepted Lottery applications per year**
- **2025: Arlington accepted 43 Lottery students**
- **2026: We currently have 16 Lottery applicants, last year at this time we were at 4**
- **We are projecting another big year for School Choice Lottery applications**





## **Principal-Led School Tours**

- **Last year we had over a 90% success rate with school tours resulting in student enrollment**
- **I truly believe in what we are doing, which makes it easy to cast our vision to parents**
- **It takes time and energy, but I really enjoy leading school tours with new families**
- **Building our enrollment one family at a time**



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## **Project Lead the Way**

- **June 2025: All certified and classified staff received 4 days of PLTW/STEM training**
- **All Arlington teachers are PLTW-certified**
- **PLTW Modules: Pre-K: 2 modules, Kindergarten: 3 modules, grades 1-5: 4 modules**
- **Applied Skills participates with grade 1 classes**





**5th grade students testing out a remote controlled robot they designed to clean up a “dangerous spill”**



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# Community Partners & Field Trips

- **Schools of Success / Portrait of an Explorer**
- **We have 14 community partners in fields of education, community organizations, and within the STEM industry**
- **PFW, USF, Anthis, Amp Lab, Kruse Education Center, FW Parks, FWPD, Science Central, StarBase, Cummins, JA, Red Cross, Health Dept.**
- **We are rethinking field trips to be more strategic with real-world experiences**



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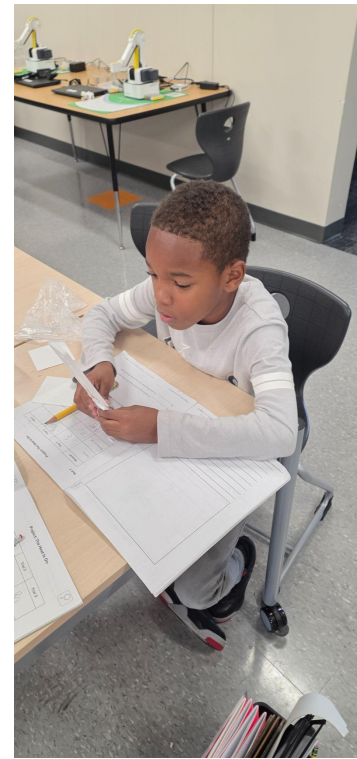
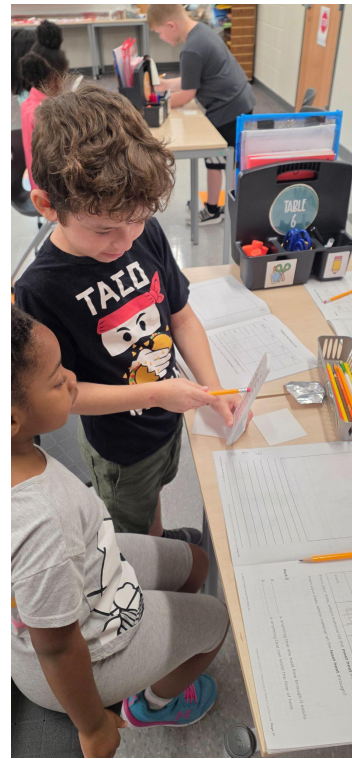
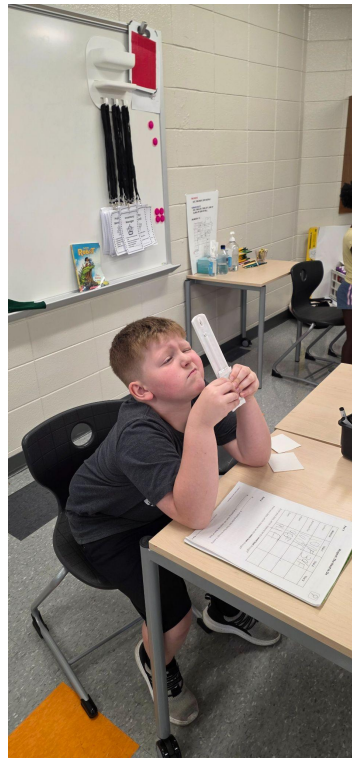
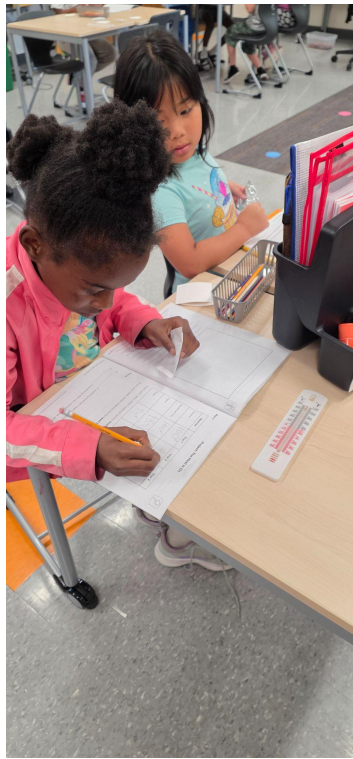
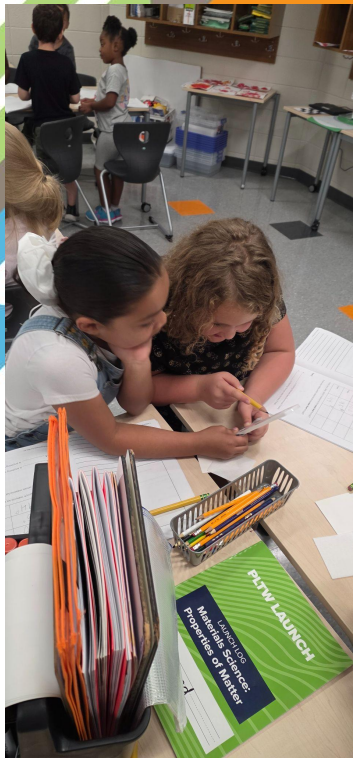


## **Design & Innovation Studio**

- **IN-MAC Purdue Grant Program allowed us to supply various digital technologies for our students and provided training for our staff.**
- **The D&I Studio supports project and problem solving portions of PLTW modules**
- **STEM Resource Teacher collaborates with grade levels on STEM units and learning opportunities within the studio**



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**2nd grade students conducting an experiment to test if different materials are conductors or insulators**



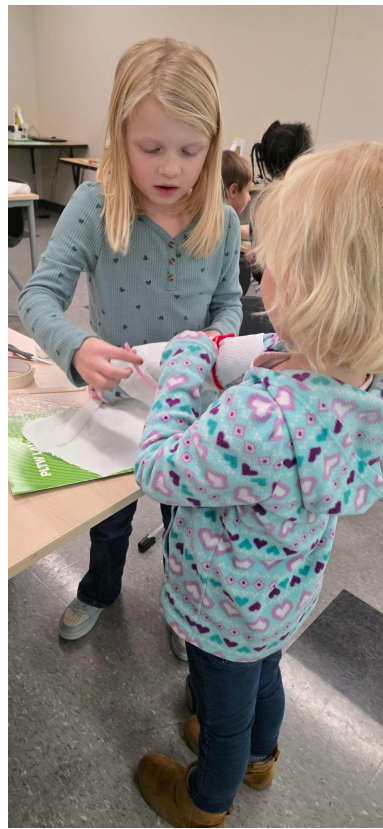
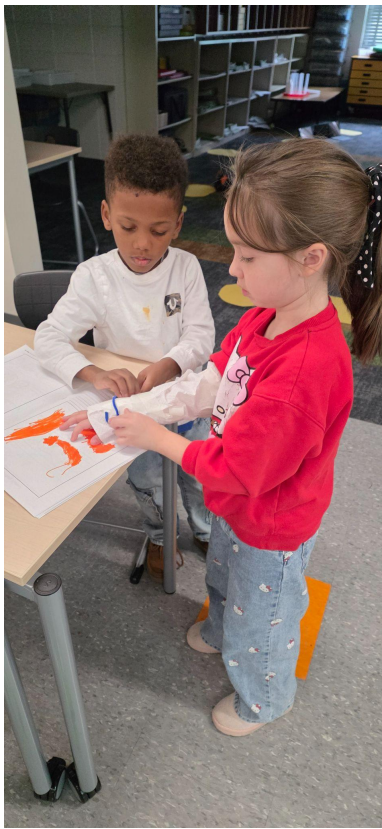
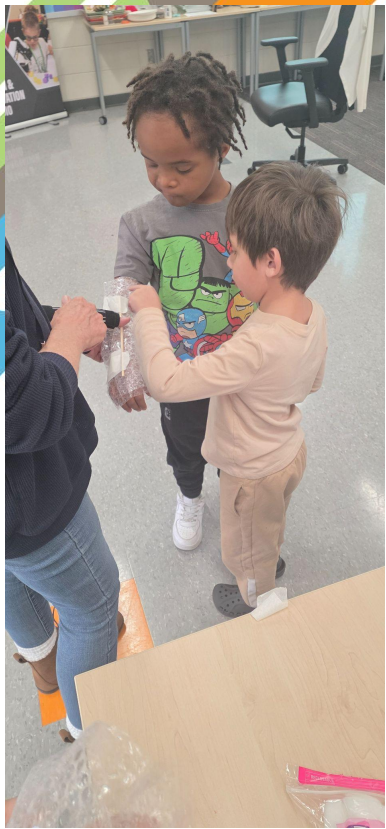
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# **STEM Immersion**

- **We are moving toward STEM Certification through the Indiana DOE**
- **Investigating, Developing, Emerging, Innovating**
- **We are considering this question: How do we integrate STEM into every content area?**
- **The DOE STEM Certification rubric will continue to move us forward in our STEM implementation**





Kindergarten and Applied Skills students using what they learned about the human body to design casts that are strong, comfortable, and waterproof



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