



STEFAN BEAN, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools



STEAM Hub Newsletter

Back to School!

2026-2027

New Year, New Goals



"What do you want to achieve this year?" is a classic back to school question, but we can take a wider view and work backwards, just like using a map to plan a road trip.

The earlier young people can explore different careers, the easier it becomes to connect their interests and strengths to future possibilities. These career exploration activities for elementary, middle, and high school students help youth discover new pathways, build confidence, and begin thinking about future goals through engaging, age-appropriate experiences.

Explore resources from [JKCP.com](https://www.jkcp.com) and check out their other youth resources for middle and high school students.

Want to learn more about college and career coaching in Expanded Learning? Start [HERE](#).

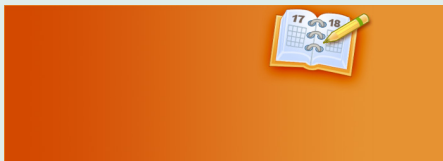
NATIONAL CODING WEEK-- SEPTEMBER 19-25, 2026

Learn more about coding at [KnowledgeFlow](https://www.knowledgeflow.com), [Code.org](https://www.code.org), or [Tynker](https://www.tynker.com)
(and many, many more platforms!)

READY SET DESIGN

Ready, Set, Design is a quick group activity from the Cooper Hewitt Museum, a Smithsonian museum in New York City. It uses simple, inexpensive materials and is an effective tool for problem solving, creative thinking and team building. Ready, Set, Design is not just for designers but can be used by any audience as a way to engage in design thinking. This activity can be used for groups of all ages to promote teamwork and creativity. You can access a PDF instruction packet [here](#).

The museum also runs a design contest for high school students in the US, centered around a design question. The 2026 competition is over, but watch the space for information on the 2027 theme to be posted later this year. You can learn more and see this year's winning entries here: [National High School Design Competition](#)



Calendar-Themed Lessons to Finish up 2026

There's a national holiday for everything, which means there is always something to celebrate! (My personal favorite is National Donut Day, which falls on June 5th.)

Educators love a good theme, so here is a [list of STEAM activities](#) that go with some of the fun and educational holidays that are upcoming for the end of the year.



Math...Again??

Has it been a few months since you had to do any math tutoring? Are you working with a new grade level this year? You can find support from a few different websites:

- [SchoolYourself](#)
- [Inside Mathematics](#)
- [Khan Academy](#)



Apples for the Teacher: STEAM Activities



STEAM + Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Here's a bushel of apple-themed challenges to start the year. I particularly like the "Apples Afar" lesson that uses a cantilevered design to extend an apple off the edge of a table or desk.

- **Apple Activities**
- **What's a cantilever, anyway?**

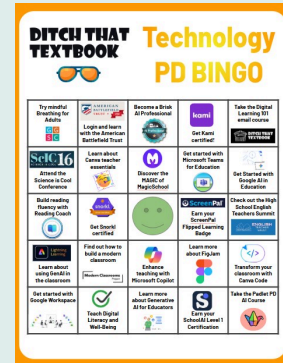
Reinforce rules, expectations, and team-building through STEAM activities. Here are some ideas, and a free resource for those first few days of school.

- **Three Ways to Get Started with STEM**
- **STEAM-inspired Read Alouds**

Technology PD Hyperdoc

Brush-up on your tech knowledge by following the hyperlinks in each box of the bingo card. You can also use this format to create choice boards for your staff or students by making a copy and inserting your own links.

From Matt Miller of Ditch That Textbook



UPCOMING STEAM HUB EVENTS:

- August 13: **STEAM Hub Kickoff** (virtual)
- October 16: **Child Creativity Lab** (in person)
- November 6: **Webinar: AI in STEAM** (virtual)
- December 4: **STEAM Inquiry Lab** (in person)



EXPANDED LEARNING LEADERSHIP OFFERINGS:

- August 20: **Expanded Learning 101, ELO-P and ASES** (virtual)
- September 3: **Federal Program Monitoring (FPM) Training** (virtual)
- September 10: **Summer Program Showcase** (virtual)
- September 24: Drop-in Office Hour (**virtual**, no registration needed)
- October 8: **Expanded Learning Community of Practice** (in person)
- October 13: **Joint Network Meeting** (in person, registration coming soon)

Suggestions or Requests for 2027/2028?

Planning for this year is underway! If you have an idea for a topic or location that would be good for the group in the upcoming school year, please let me know and I'll see what

I can do to make it happen. Email me: sprendergast@ocde.us

OCDE STEAM Hub
Padlet

OCDE Expanded
Learning **Site**

OCDE Learning
Opportunities for
26/27
COMING SOON!

CDE
Expanded Learning
Site

Receive this email from someone else? You can join our new mailing list here:

Sign up!

Expanded Learning - Orange County Department of Education | 200 Kalmus Dr. | Costa Mesa, CA 92626
US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!