Monthly Newsletter

AIM ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

November 2026

In this newsletter you can expect:

- October Student of the Month
- Engineer of the Month
- Fundraiser Updates
- Class Updates
- Clubs & Organizations
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Mission & Vision Statement

To forge lifelong learners through Analysis, Innovation, and Modeling in order to face the challenges of the modern world.

The AIM (Analysis, Innovate, Model) Academy is an innovative educational program that provides students with authentic academic opportunities. Students use the Engineering Design Process to analyze, model, and create solutions to real-world problems. After completing our rigorous Engineering pathway, students will be prepared for STEM related post-graduate opportunities.

AIM Requirements

Each AIM student will complete ALL AIM classwork, homework, and assignments to meet standards. Each AIM student will set aside one hour of uninterrupted study time daily. Each AIM student will actively participate in at least one STEM club each year.

a. TSA (Technology Student Association) - Every AIM student is required to be a member of TSA.
b. Gardening Club
c. Mu Alpha Theta (MATH Honor Society)
d. National Science Honors Society
e. STEM Forward

Each AIM student will maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity and will abide by the rules and regulations of the SPHS student handbook and the Paulding County Board of Education code of student conduct and discipline.



Student of the Month

Merchris Atongwe

Congratulations to Merchris, AIM Student of the Month for October! As a junior enrolled in Engineering Applications and AP Physics I, Merchris consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic, creativity, and a passion for learning. He approaches challenges with determination, contributes innovative ideas during projects, and works effectively with his peers. His curiosity, positive attitude, and commitment to academic growth make him a standout student and an excellent representative of the AIM program. We are proud to recognize Merchris for this well-deserved honor and look forward to his continued success both inside and outside the classroom.



Engineer of the Month

George Stephenson

George Stephenson, born on June 9, 1781, is celebrated as November's Engineer of the Month for his contributions to engineering. Stephenson was an English mechanical and civil engineer known as the "Father of Railways." He developed the first successful steam locomotive, The Rocket, and built the world's first public inter-city railway line using steam locomotives—the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. Stephenson's innovations in rail transport revolutionized travel and commerce during the Industrial Revolution. His legacy lives on in the global railway systems that followed his pioneering work.

Fundraiser Updates

Thank you to everyone who supported our Moe's Taco Kit Fundraiser! Thanks to your generosity, we raised over $100 for the AIM Academy. We appreciate all who purchased taco kits and helped make this fundraiser a success. Your support helps provide valuable opportunities and experiences for our students, and we are grateful for your continued investment in our program.

More information about upcoming fundraisers will be announced soon!



Class Updates



Freshmen

Students are currently working in teams to design a sustainable community greenhouse that maximizes plant growth, conserves resources, and meets community needs while staying within budget constraints. Through this project, they are applying engineering design, problem-solving, and teamwork skills to develop innovative solutions.





Sophomores

Students are currently applying the engineering design process to create enrichment toys for marine animals following the completion of their handmade soap testing and analysis project. Launched with an in-house field experience on October 27th, this project has students designing innovative solutions that promote animal engagement, enrichment, and well-being.



Juniors

Students recently met with industry professionals to present their vehicle designs and receive valuable feedback. They applied this expert input to refine and improve their designs before completing final testing. Through the project, students designed, built, and tested crash protection systems while collecting and analyzing data to evaluate performance and enhance passenger safety.



Seniors

Students are currently developing their capstone projects, exploring STEM topics of personal interest through research, experimentation, and problem-solving. As they refine their designs and solutions, students are preparing to present their work at either the Cobb/Paulding Regional Science Fair or the InVenture Prize State Finals at Georgia Tech.

PBL (Project-Based Learning)

Project-Based Learning challenges students to design and build solutions to real-world problems while developing creativity, critical thinking, and teamwork skills. PBL typically involves:

1. Identifying a problem
2. Developing a solution plan
3. Designing and building a prototype
4. Improving the solution based on feedback

In the AIM Academy, PBL is supported through the integration of Mathematics, Science, and Engineering standards. Each grade level completes at least two major projects annually, often paired with field experiences that enhance learning. Participation in these projects and trips is required, as they support Georgia STEM Certification requirements.

Clubs & Organizations



Gardening Club

The STEM-based Gardening Club integrates environmental engineering principles with sustainable agriculture to engage students and community members in hands-on problem solving around real-world ecological challenges. Participants design and maintain garden systems using concepts such as soil science, water management, composting, irrigation efficiency, and data-driven plant selection, while also exploring renewable practices that reduce waste and conserve resources. Through collaborative projects, members learn to prototype solutions, analyze outcomes, and iterate designs--mirroring authentic engineering processes-while producing food and green spaces that benefit the broader community. The club is intentionally inclusive, serving all students and community members regardless of prior experience, and functions as both a learning laboratory and a community sustainability hub that promotes environmental stewardship, civic engagement, and equitable access to STEM learning opportunities.

If you would like more information, please contact Ms. Dedman (ldedman@paulding.k12.ga.us - Room 5013).

Mu Alpha Theta

Mu Alpha Theta is a national mathematics honor society dedicated to inspiring a love for math, fostering academic excellence, and promoting the enjoyment of mathematics among high school and college students. Members engage in math-related activities, competitions, and service projects that build leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. Through its commitment to scholarship and community, Mu Alpha Theta cultivates a vibrant environment where students can grow intellectually and socially. SPHS requires students to have finished or be enrolled in Advanced Algebra, have a math GPA of 3.5, and an overall GPA of 3.0 to be eligible to participate.

If you would like more information, please contact Ms. Shoemaker (wshoemaker@paulding.k12.ga.us - Room 5015).

Clubs & Organizations

Science National Honor Society

The Science National Honor Society is a national organization that recognizes high- achieving high school students who demonstrate excellence in science, strong academic performance, and a commitment to scientific inquiry and service. Members are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA and must be enrolled in an Honors or Advanced Placement Science class. Further, students must show integrity and responsibility and participate in science- related activities such as tutoring, STEM outreach, competitions, and research projects. Joining NSHS helps students strengthen their college and scholarship applications, build leadership skills, and connect with peers who share an interest in science, engineering, medicine, and technology, while contributing positively to their school and community through STEM service and engagement.

If you would like more information, please contact Dr. Shepherd (jshepherd@paulding.k12.ga.us - Room 5004).

STEM Forward

STEM Forward is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring and developing a future- ready STEM workforce. With over 120 years of history, the organization empowers K-12 students, educators, and STEM professionals through programs, events, and outreach designed to strengthen interest and participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. By connecting youth with hands-on-learning experiences and real STEM mentors, STEM Forward helps close the talent gap facing today's technology-driven world. STEM Forward serves as a regional leader in STEM engagement--offering competitions, classroom programs, conferences, and community partnerships that spark curiosity and nurture the next generation of innovators and problem-solvers. Through long-standing collaborations with schools, businesses, and community organizations, the nonprofit continues its mission to build a stronger, more prepared STEM talent pipeline for the future.

If you would like more information, please contact Dr. Portwood (lportwood@paulding.k12.ga.us - Room 5008) or Ms. Walker (ewalker@paulding.k12.ga.us - Room 5011).

Clubs & Organizations

Technology Student Association

The Technology Student Association (TSA) is a national, student-led organization that supports middle and high school students in developing skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Through hands-on competitions, leadership opportunities, and collaborative projects, TSA helps students explore careers in engineering, robotics, coding, architecture, and more.
TSA encourages creativity, problem-solving, and ethical decision-making by engaging students in real-world challenges. Members participate in events ranging from CAD design and structural engineering to cybersecurity and biotechnology, often culminating in regional, state, and national conferences. It's a great way for students to build technical skills, teamwork, and confidence in a fun and competitive environment.

If you would like more information, please contact Ms. Turner (paytonl.turner55@paulding.k12.ga.us - Room 615).

Important Dates

November 2nd - 13th - AIM Store Available
November 3rd - Teacher Work Day
November 4th - 300 Hour
November 5th - Austin STEM Night
November 6th - 300 Hour
November 10th - Hiram Pathway Fair
November 17th & 19th - 300 Hour
November 23rd - 27th - Thanksgiving Break

Contacts

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AIM Academy Spirit Store

Get your AIM Academy apparel here!