

STEMbyTAF Schools Vision

Imagine a public school that redefines STEM literacy, equitable education, and what it means to be a well-educated 21st century student. Imagine a school known for encouraging innovation, for pushing the limits of what is "possible", delivering curriculum in a way that is relevant to real-world needs and goals of students, and creating an environment that promotes academic success through a social justice lens. Imagine a school where learning is designed for, and often by, the students, teachers collaborate as part of their daily practice and learn alongside their students, parents are welcome in the classrooms at any time, and professionals in other fields participate in teaching and learning. When you work in this school, you sense there is a bond of caring at the school between all the groups—teachers, students, leadership, and support staff—where people look out for each other and students support each other to do their very best.

STEMbyTAF schools are schools where generations of community families aspire to attend and education from around the state desire to teach. Known as a hub of innovation that trains compassionate leaders who give back, our schools are a valuable asset to the community that seeks to leverage the skills and talents of the students for the betterment of their local and global community.

The principal is the steward of this great school's vision, ensuring a laser focus on the mission and vision of the school as it pursues its everyday goals. The principal creates maximum opportunities for teachers to develop their craft as well as to collaborate with adults from other professions to create authentic learning experiences. The principal fosters an environment that devises ways for adults and students to share their passions and celebrate their personal learning journeys.

Teachers are seen and treated as highly respected professionals, with a great deal of autonomy over their classroom... Teachers serve as the facilitators of learning, and continuously strive to cultivate the type of environment that enables everyone in the school community to grow as individuals who contribute to the good of the whole. STEMbyTAF teachers provide multiple rich learning experiences for their students. They use inquiry as a lens for equity and explore diverse forms of knowledge and experience. They make sure students use themselves, their cultures, and their interests in the work they do. Teachers are encouraged and supported as they work hard to model the kind of learning they want their students to emulate. Teachers are provided frequent opportunities to collaborate with their colleagues to best serve students and constantly work to improve their own practice. Teachers fully support each student by providing them an individualized roadmap to their personal goals and ambitions. We understand that regardless of background, students envision themselves being successful in life. This natural instinct for self-preservation and the aspiration to improve one's own condition will be the context for all work at STEMbyTAF schools.

Students learn to succeed, not for standards or teacher expectations, not to compete in the workforce and fuel the economy, not for personal gain and prestige, but so that they can position themselves to create the world that they themselves envision, personally, communally, nationally and globally.

STEMbyTAF schools challenge students with issues of the 21st century: from disease epidemics, world hunger and geopolitics, to world trade, artificial intelligence and ecological sustainability. Each student grapples with their personal, communal, and cultural role in the global systems of environment and life. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) permeates the curriculum to ensure that our students are selecting the most efficient and effective tools to analyze, communicate, synthesize, and evaluate the world and the world around them.

STEMbyTAF students explore new worlds of science, art, language and society. They learn, create, teach, and inspire. They are social constructivists who seek to expand their horizons, are curious about injustice, and build on their intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and career exploration. They are comfortable grappling with complex issues, engaging in intellectual risk-taking, persisting through and past barriers. Gone are the days of outdated textbooks, recycled quizzes, and short, memorized answers. STEMbyTAF schools bring to life true performance-based assessment where students are graded, not on the answers they provide, but on the work of their hands and minds, their efforts to make positive change and impact the world.

These great schools create a culture that invites and connects with community members, especially students' families. It provides a hospitable environment that respects the needs of its participants by honoring their culture and their time. To attend this school is to join a family. STEMbyTAF aims to produce that next generation of well-rounded learners who draw on experiences throughout their TAF career to drive their future and become leaders: leaders for our community, leaders for our country, and leaders for the world.