

At Bishop Leibold School, we are serious about Science and Math Instruction. But we are also serious about making it engaging, exciting and fun!

One doesn't need to look hard to see the results of our focus on academic excellence. BLS is a U.S Department of Education National Blue Ribbon of Excellence (one of 50 private schools nationally honored) and a recipient of multiple Ohio Governor's Awards for Science. But another honor has truly enabled us to bring our students innovative and engaging classroom programming: Bishop Leibold is a recipient of a \$14,000 Dayton STEM Hub Grant. We are one of nine K-12 educational recipients, and received one of two grants going to schools (rather than districts). BLS is the area's only Catholic elementary school to receive a grant.



So what is STEM?

The STEM mission provides students with engaging lessons designed to promote inquiry, critical thinking, and problem solving. Equally important, this initiative seeks to help students see the powerful connections between the four fields of study and how those connections operate in the real-world laboratories, industries, and research institutes in our region and beyond. Our school is strongly supported by The Dayton Regional STEM Center (DRSC), one of 30 Dayton STEM partners in education, business and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The DRSC trains our teachers and provides STEM curriculum.

Our Students

All BLS students in Gr K-8 have a weekly STEM session, with related instruction in other classes, as reading and writing are strong components of this curriculum. The Engineering Design Process is central to STEM education: Instruction, then design, test, and re-design are challenging steps, and sometimes there are frustrations. Our students learn in a constructive way that failure is the beginning of the next step, and the achievement of their team's design goal typically generates an excitement that overshadows past aggravations!

Whether designing a hoop glider, alarm clock circuit, or divisibility gadget; testing pollution's effects on plants; or programming for robotics, the focus is on the *process*, not the product. Developing problem solving and critical thinking skills and productive team working behaviors are goals of the process. And within these practices, our students become excited about "What's next?", find satisfaction in collaboration, and engage in "working the problem."



Other BLS Opportunities for the STEM Disciplines

Beyond the hands-on, inquiry-based activities in all grades, BLS provides other unique opportunities for STEM-related learning:
ScienceFEST, our annual free family hands-on science festival
Bishop Leibold Summer Science Camp, for rising 1st, 2nd, & 3rd graders
Bishop Leibold Robotics Camp, for rising 4th, 5th & 6th graders
QUEST, our after-school Math & Science Enrichment Program, Gr 4-8
BLS Eagles Robotics Team, competing in the First Lego League, Gr 6-8

Please go to <http://www.bishopleiboldschool.com/> and STEM links for more on areas of study and extracurricular programming.