

## Make Way for the STEAM Rollers!

What's trending at St. Eugene School? Four new STEAM Rollers! These mobile carts are filled with ideas and supplies for developing science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) skills. Our students are now taking their STEM education to the next level, appreciating how the arts contribute to the inventions of today and tomorrow. In some cases, they're even teaching their teachers a thing or two.

This fleet of STEAM Rollers is the brainchild of Sharon Webster, the St. Eugene STEAM Director and algebra teacher. Mrs. Webster applied for and received a grant from the G.I.F.T.S. program - *Grant Initiatives for Today's Students* - which was created in honor of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. That grant funded the creation of three carts. A generous gift from the Class of 2019 allowed the addition of a fourth cart.

Each STEAM roller has a focus area. The builders cart is stocked with a wide variety of art and building supplies including Legos and recycled household objects. Recently, the builders cart rolled into the first grade classroom where students designed and built musical instruments.



The robotics STEAM roller facilitates exploration of programming and robotics. It houses several Sphero robots and rovers programmed with iPads and iPods. Eighth graders are learning to program in TI Basic on their graphing calculators, including writing code for rover cars. Middle school students used Spheros to demonstrate coding during a faculty meeting in October.

The 3D design STEAM roller holds geometric solids and manipulatives for transformation, a 3D printer, and sample projects. During the spring Business Fair, Tinkercad designs will now truly take shape. The VR/AR cart contains materials for virtual and augmented reality projects such as learning about plate tectonics using merge cubes in sixth grade science class. Exploring ancient Egypt on a virtual field trip makes for a unique social studies class as well.

Mrs. Webster guides our teachers with integrating the STEAM Rollers into the curriculum. Middle school members of the "STEAM team" are trained to assist during power hour sessions. Many STEAM books have been added to our library. Using the Seesaw app, students from fourth through eighth grade share their creations to inspire makers in every grade.

Collaborative, imaginative, instructive...the possibilities are endless with the St. Eugene STEAM Rollers!

