



Battle Creek STEM Innovation Center Opening Fall 2019!

- This fall, BCPS will open a new STEM-focused middle school called Battle Creek STEM Innovation Center, or BC STEM. Housed in the east wing (the 1100 wing) of the Battle Creek Central High School building, BC STEM Middle School will begin in fall 2019 with sixth grade only and expand by one grade per year through eighth grade.
- At BC STEM, students will experience hands-on project-based learning to help them develop engineering mindsets, design thinking and research skills.
- STEM — which stands for science, technology, engineering and math — is our nation's fastest-growing career field according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. BC STEM Middle School will ensure that young people are well prepared for higher education and careers in these industries.
- At BC STEM, students will drive their own learning. They will use their hands and minds to explore, build curiosity and develop design thinking. They will take machines apart and learn how they work through reverse engineering. They will conduct field research and participate in project-based lessons that help them develop the innovative thinking they'll need to become adept in analytical and scientific processes.
- At BC STEM, students will receive three hours per day of specialized instruction in STEM subject matter, including engineering and design-focused projects. They will also receive lessons in the traditional subject-specific areas of English language arts, social sciences, math and science, but with tailored lessons that teach this core subject matter through the lens of STEM thinking.
- Rather than an add-on, a special enrichment class or after school program, the STEM instruction at STEM Middle school will instead immerse the student in a project-based STEM educational experience. The school's inquiry-based learning model is designed to ensure that across all subjects and in every moment of the day, students are leading their own discovery, implementing a repeating process of design, check, test, analysis, and refinement, also called the iterative design process (IDP).
- STEM Middle School sixth graders will make weekly visits to the Outdoor Education Center (OEC), gaining experience in research, collaboration, teaming, risk taking; all necessary skills for engineering and life. They will spend time outdoors and exploring new settings, testing new skills through hands-on learning projects that teach them to innovate, discover new solutions and explore new possibilities through trial and error.