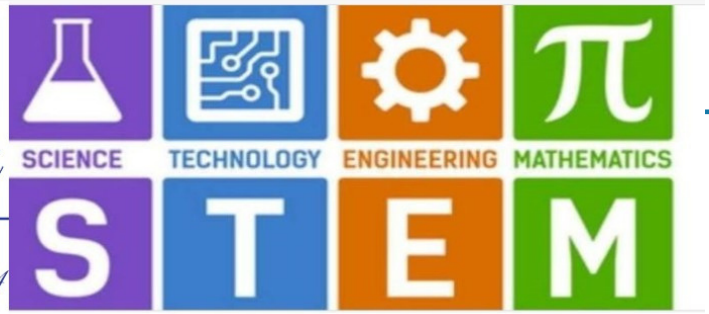


SOMERSET ACADEMY STEM NEWSLETTER



SOMERSET ACADEMY VISION & MISSION

At SOMERSET ACADEMY we strive to create a learning culture where students practice and develop STEM and 21st century skills.

At SOMERSET ACADEMY we use proven STEM guidelines to build the foundation for a self-directed STEM school.



**SCIENTISTS
IN SCHOOL**

During the month of October, Somerset Academy invited Scientists in School to run a fun VIRTUAL STEM workshop for the students at our school. Our students had fun becoming a spooky scientist participating in a Candy Chemistry virtual STEM Halloween party. Students explored solubility, buoyancy and reactivity by doing different experiments with candy!



WHAT IS STEM ?

- **STEM** is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. And, at its simplest, that's what STEM programs provide: an intensive focus on the hard sciences.
- **STEM** programs achieve that, largely, through problem-based learning, with each of the elements providing tools for discovery, creative problem solving, and communication:
- **Science:** questioning, observing, predicting
- **Technology:** applying analytic tools, putting ideas into practice, being inventive
- **Engineering:** building, understanding material properties, designing effective solutions
- **Math:** identifying patterns, making connections, communicating results

Testimonials

I like the Somerset STEM curriculum because it helps demonstrate what is actually happening in the real world. I loved all the hands on experiments and I added my own twist at home which helped me better understand the chemical reactions. Also, most projects require using digital technology which brings out my creative ideas. I've learned many new things in the STEM curriculum and improved my knowledge.

- Meghan (Grade 5)

We have two sons who are currently attending Somerset Academy. They are in grade 5 and grade 2. We are pleased that teachers of Somerset have been implementing a STEM approach to teaching. We believe the STEM approach, which encourages curiosity, creativity, hands on activities, cooperative learning, and student engagement, is one of the best approaches to prepare our sons for future successes. We have noticed that they have been doing interesting group projects, applying what they have learned to solve problems in real life situations, and asking more intuitive questions about how things work in their daily lives. Most importantly, we are happy to see that they look forward to attending classes, having fun interacting with classmates/teachers, and being independent in finding solutions. We look forward to knowing more about what they have learned and learning from them.

- Jon and Phyllis

(Parents of Silas and Gideon)



BENEFITS OF STEM

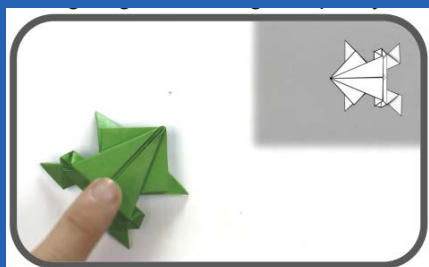
- Students will be able to function constructively and apply enhanced skills in academics and the world of work.
- Students will be able to keep pace with the rate of technological development.
- Analytical and problem solving skills are at the core of STEM.
- Students will be less fearful of engaging new concepts and becoming more confident in their approaches.
- Students will benefit from a STEM enriched education by becoming dedicated life long learners as their love, passion and curiosity evolve and fuel their future contributions in our society.



STEM CHALLENGE TO TRY AT HOME

Have you ever tried making origami? A frog is a pretty good starting project. The best part about this frog is that after you make it, you can make the frog hop! Maybe you could even challenge friends to see which frog hops the farthest or can land on a target (like a lily pad).

Learn how in this video: youtu.be/uj5t4klo-SA



PARENT FEEDBACK

At Somerset Academy we value feedback from all the parents & families of our students. We would really appreciate any testimonials, feedback and ideas you may have to improve our STEM program and newsletter.

Please email them to :

grade3@somersetacademy.ca

or

grade4@somersetacademy.ca