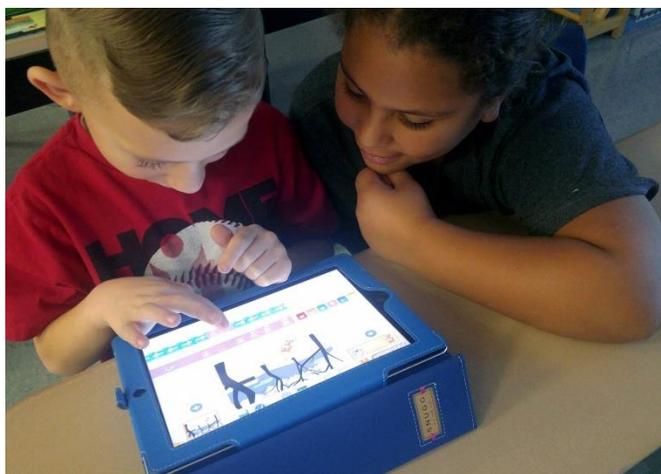




Mooreville Leading the Way in K-12 STEM Programming

Mooreville Schools will be one of the first districts in the state to adopt the nationally recognized and award-winning Project Lead the Way STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programming district-wide. The program has been in place at Mooreville High School and Paul Hadley Middle School for several years now and expanded to Northwood Elementary School as a trial four years ago. The elementary program has proven more than successful, as Northwood has just been named a PLTW Distinguished School, one of only two elementary schools in Indiana to receive such accolades.

“As part of our Mooreville Schools Strategic Plan, we are excited to be expanding our PLTW Launch



programming to all five elementary schools beginning in the fall of 2018,” said Holly Frye, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum. “This will allow us to provide PLTW offerings to all K-12 students in Mooreville Schools. These programs will provide our students with highly engaging STEM activities that enhance learning through hands-on, cooperative experiences that promote problem solving and scientific thinking.”

Northwood First Grade students work on a coding project.

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is a nonprofit organization that provides a transformative learning experience, empowering students to develop in-demand, transportable knowledge and skills through pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. PLTW’s teacher training and resources support teachers as they engage their students in real-world learning.

Through PLTW’s K-12 pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science, students learn problem-solving strategies, critical and creative thinking, and how to communicate and collaborate. They apply knowledge from a variety of disciplines as they engage in hands-on activities, projects, and problems reflective of real-world scenarios and careers. PLTW’s five programs include:

- o PLTW Launch - Grades K-5
- o PLTW Gateway – Grades 6-8
- o PLTW Computer Science, PLTW Engineering, PLTW Biomedical Science – High school

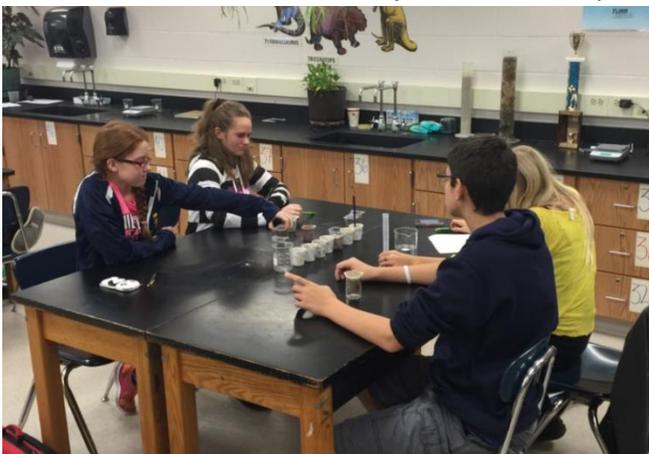
“When you walk into a PLTW classroom, you see students collaborating on real world tasks or problems at very young ages,” said Northwood Elementary Principal Erin Bechtold. “It sparks an interest in a variety of topics and conversations that lead to increased curiosity.”

Bechtold noted that some of the benefits Northwood has seen include increased critical-thinking skills for students, high student engagement, real-world applications to problems students might face, and student-driven learning.

Researchers at the Center for Urban and Multicultural Education at the Indiana University School of Education at Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis analyzed data for more than 56,000 Indiana high school graduates. Major findings include:

- o High school graduates who participated in PLTW were nearly three times as likely to major in STEM, and 3 to 4 times more likely to study engineering, versus non-PLTW graduates.
- o Students who took three or more PLTW courses while in high school were six times more likely to study STEM, and eight times more likely to study engineering, in college than their peers who had not taken PLTW while in high school.
- o PLTW participation was significantly related to persistence into the second year of college, especially for those students who had taken three or more PLTW courses.

Additional information about Project Lead the Way is available at www.pltw.org.



PHMS students collaborate on a PLTW project.

The program will begin at Neil Armstrong, Newby, North Madison, and Waverly elementary schools when school resumes in August. Mooresville Schools accept out-of-district transfer students to their schools and the PLTW programs as long as those families provide their own transportation. For information, visit www.MooresvilleSchools.org.