

News Column for use the week of 4/11/2022
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Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead

The STEAM engine has left the station and the push to jump aboard has been nationwide. What is the big demand to educate our youth in science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics? Our future depends on it.

In today's constantly changing world, our youth must be prepared with the fundamentals and understanding to solve some of the complex challenges of today and tomorrow. It is important to educate our future leaders and workers with STEAM. This teaches our youth ingenuity, creativity, problem-solving, adaptation, and more. STEAM also encourages youth to build resilience and to work as a team.

Not only does STEAM provide a new way of thinking and learning for our students, but it also creates potential career paths as the demand for STEAM careers is on a rise. More and more jobs are under the threat of automation as technology continues to advance at a record-setting pace. In the future, no matter the industry, jobs will involve a certain level of technology.

Research suggests exposing STEAM to youth as soon as possible. Infants and toddlers develop hundreds of neural connections every second. Each experience and interaction of the young child's life is inherent to their brain development. Early exposure does more than develop the child's STEAM foundation, it has been proven to improve their abilities in subjects outside of STEAM. Once in elementary school, continuing STEAM education for students is critical for keeping their interest. Introducing these topics to a child throughout their life provides them the opportunity and skills to pursue a STEAM-related major or career.

4-H'ers are four times more likely to give back to their community and two times more likely to participate in STEAM activities. River Valley 4-H believes in the power of young people and empowers them with the skills to lead for a lifetime. Join us, as we go full S.T.E.A.M. ahead. "All Aboard!"

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