National STEM and STEAM Day



By Dr. R. Pletsch

I almost missed it. Did you? Of course, it's National STEM and STEAM Day. This year and every year since 2015 it is celebrated on November 8th. So what is it? It's an educational program with the goal of inspiring students to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math.

The literature stresses that the program and the day specifically tries to bolster these fields for further study and possible careers. STEAM includes Art that can compliment technical skills. The teachers are provided with materials for monthly activities. These are available for most grades and they help all involved to explore these fields and develop critical thinking, creativity and innovation.

In this community, many of our students are introduced to these in a few of our schools. The ones I found in the CPS website are: Evergreen Academy Middle School, 3537 S. Paulina and it is a STEAM Demonstration School; Everett, 3419 S. Bell is a STEM school; Horizon Science Academy, McKinley Park, is a STEM school, 2245 W. Pershing; Columbia Explorers, is also a STEM school, 4520 S. Kedzie. I hope I did not miss any school, I found these in the CPS directory.

If you would like to investigate this program for your school, you may make a computer search. We are lucky to have Evergreen Academy Middle School that is a demonstration center. The fine administration and staff at Evergreen will try to help. Contact them.