

C-STEM: What 21st Century Learning Looks Like During COVID-19

By providing quality education in science, technology, engineering, and math, encompassed in our Catholic faith, we live out our mission of shaping the hearts and minds of 21st century learners.

The generous donation of our state-of-the-art SmartLab and continued licensing allows students to explore real-world problems through project-based learning. The SmartLab is designed to be inquiry based with little traditional lecture-style teaching. “The SmartLab challenges each student to push themselves beyond basic knowledge level and develop critical thinking in all aspects of STEM,” says Amy Gallus, STEM Curriculum Specialist.



“The SmartLab has revolutionized the concept of student engagement.”

In SmartLab classes, students have a variety of projects with which they can engage. “My favorite part of C-STEM is the SmartLab because we get to do a lot of different, cool projects with lots of different programs. I also like the science fair because you get to study something you like and you get to choose something you want to learn about,” says Emma, 8th Grade student. This nontraditional classroom is a place where students blossom as they try new things and learn how to fail and try again. This growth mindset is what shapes tomorrow’s innovators and helps solve 21st century problems.

This year has brought out some challenges in utilizing our SmartLab, one of them being collaboration. “Collaboration is one of the 21st Century Learning Skills we usually highlight and focus on, but with physical distancing and not sharing supplies, this is much more of a challenge,” says Gallus. To accommodate our classroom pod learning, Gallus teaches some classes in the SmartLab and some in homeroom classes. “All in all, SmartLab is still alive and well and occurring frequently throughout the entire school.”

Students above the 50th Percentile

