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Cool at School with STARBASE

By Cale Ramaker

LAS VEGAS - Students at Walter Bracken Elementary School are getting a rocket-filled lesson in science and engineering.

They are taking part in STARBASE Nellis - a Department of Defense program that uses a hands-on approach to teach science technology, engineering and math.

STARBASE Nellis Director Myles Judd spends 12 days in the classroom teaching the science that makes rockets fly. Then, the kids get to build and test them.

"The kids, a lot of times in elementary settings, they don't have the resources or the time to do that experiential learning that we bring," said Judd. "So, for that 25 hours, it's hands-on, minds-on on all the activities. We are actually seeing a 20 percent increase in test scores on the CRTs with our program, and that's an amazing number."

The program doesn't just improve test scores. Students say the education they receive inspires them.

"I want to be an engineer. They told us about Creo and how you can design or build things on the computer," said 5th grader Aden Kiros. "I want to be a person that makes things like rovers and stuff."

STARBASE Nellis includes a field trip to Nellis Air Force Base. Next year, the program will take place full-time at the base. The facility that will house the program is under construction.

STARBASE Nellis at Bracken Elementary School represents What's Cool at School. If you wish to nominate a program for What's Cool at

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