



2.0 Spotlight



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Spotlight on School Alignment

In March of 2012, a compendium entitled "Afterschool in Action: How Innovative Afterschool Programs Address Critical Issues Facing Middle School Youth" was published from a cooperative effort between the Afterschool Alliance and the MetLife Foundation. This publication examines the importance of quality afterschool programs for middle school students, and one of the core areas considered was the program's alignment with the students' school day.

"Afterschool programs that are aligned with the school-day curriculum can support student learning and attack the achievement gap by offering additional supports to struggling students that complement and reinforce learning that takes place in the classroom in new and exciting ways. Collaboration and alignment among schools, expanded learning programs and the greater community offers students the opportunity to enjoy a complementary learning environment where they can truly thrive. Many afterschool programs are seeing the need for this type of learning and have taken steps to align their content with that offered during school to ensure youth participants have ample opportunity to reinforce and practice the skills they need to succeed."

"By offering exciting programming that engages students' varied interests in the afterschool space, programs keep kids interested in learning."



"Change does not necessarily assure progress, but progress implacably requires change. Education is essential to change, for education creates both new wants and the ability to satisfy them." -- Henry Steele Commager

The STARBASE 2.0 program clearly aligns itself with this mission, as programs across the country are successfully reinforcing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) concepts by utilizing STEM Mentors from local communities. The publication also explains the importance of utilizing the school space for these programs, another benefit of the STARBASE 2.0 program.

“By offering exciting programming that engages students’ varied interests in the afterschool space, programs keep kids interested in learning. Children begin to see the link between what they are learning during school and in their afterschool programs and understand that in order to fully enjoy afterschool, they have to attend school as well.”

Several STARBASE 2.0 programs around the country have reported on the significance of their connection to their partner schools. Read more about the rock star treatment the STARBASE Connecticut program receives from their partner school below.

STARBASE Connecticut Partners with EHMS

When STARBASE Connecticut staff and STEM Mentors walk through the halls of East Hartford Middle School (EHMS), it is common for them to feel like rock stars. Who wouldn’t love the gathering crowd of students and the excited cries of STARBASE call signs, “Sparkles! Raven! STARBASE is here! STARBASE is here!”

The Hartford program worked with the science curriculum coordinator for the school district, along with the after-school coordinators, to take advantage of the students’ excitement for the STARBASE program and staff. East Hartford Middle School became their target school for the STARBASE 2.0 program, and they report that it has been a great partnership.

The partnership was even further reinforced when EHMS was chosen by Channel 3 as a “Cool School.” The afterschool coordinators immediately asked the STARBASE 2.0 staff and participants to be on the television show with them. “Cool Schools” are chosen to highlight schools that are offering outstanding programs and providing “cool” experiences for their students. The four topics chosen as “cool” for EHMS were their anti-bullying approach, their drill team, their student newspaper, and STARBASE 2.0 as part of their Crossroads afterschool program. The show ran early in January 2013.

Working with EHMS has provided a way for the STARBASE staff to maintain a continued connection with the STARBASE graduates after fifth grade. STARBASE 2.0 is beneficial for everyone involved: the students, the mentors, the school administrators, and the STARBASE staff.

“STARBASE
is here!
STARBASE
is here!”



Spotlighting Events: STARBASE One Education Day

STARBASE One kicks off their 2.0 Program at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan.

“The Army believes if you can engage students, they will be motivated to continue on in these fields,” General Terry said. “We’re helping students to see potential options they may have never before considered.”

STARBASE One in collaboration with US Army TACOM and PTC presented the Scalextrics4Schools Curriculum at the American International Auto Show on January 23, 2013 during Education Day. Education Day began with Maj. Gen. Michael J. Terry, commanding general of the U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command, addressing hundreds of students about the importance of education, particularly STEM education. Scott Krugger, a car designer from Chrysler, followed Maj. Gen. Terry’s speech. After the presentations, military personnel escorted their 2.0 students to various workshops. Later, students had the opportunity to walk the show room floor and see the most advanced and “cool” cars up close and personal.

STARBASE One and PTC teamed up to present a morning and afternoon workshop to their 2.0 students and some high school students from the Metro Detroit Area. The event was a success; students were engaged in CAD, raced cars, and made connections between the design processes to the automobiles on the showroom



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floor. Furthermore, Education Day provided great exposure for STARBASE One and PTC. Many thanks to PTC and STARBASE Battle Creek for their participation.

As part of a comprehensive approach to STEM education, the STARBASE One 2.0 program plans to create an immersive, unique, real-world experience for 16 sixth grade students. Each experience is planned strategically to enhance the 2.0 program. With the kick-off at the auto show, the STARBASE

One 2.0 students now share a common foundation for design and engineering, and thanks to the presentation by Maj. Gen. Terry, they are beginning to understand the needs of the Department of Defense as it relates to STEM careers.

To further enhance the 2.0 experiences, students will also study design principles from the past when they visit Stahls Automotive Foundation. A later trip to the STARBASE One facilities will expose them to manufacturing and prototyping where they will see vacuum forming and a computer controlled CNC router and laser cutter. Their day at STARBASE One will finish by putting them behind the wheel of the Virtual GT simulator, one of the world's most advanced car simulators. The culminating event for this 2.0 program will take place at the Grand Prix in Detroit as students will see one of the "coolest" applications of STEM-world class racecars.

By leveraging local assets, STARBASE One is creating a dynamic, inspirational 2.0 program for youth. For questions and comments, contact Mark Muzzin at mmuzzin@starbaseone.org.



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STEM Mentor Spotlight: FC1 (SW) Tom McGuffin

The STARBASE 2.0 program could not exist without the great work of our volunteer mentors. STARBASE-Atlantis San Diego is indeed very fortunate to have many outstanding volunteers, one, in particular, is Petty Officer First Class (SW) Thomas McGuffin.

Tom McGuffin is an instructor at the Center for Surface Combat Systems, Detachment West, San Diego. His rating, Fire Control Technician, allows him to work on advanced weapon systems, primarily focusing on the Close In Weapon System (CIWS). This is the Navy's primary anti-missile defense system.

Fortunate for STARBASE-Atlantis San Diego, he brings that wide-range of technical knowledge and skills with him when he tutors their STARBASE 2.0 students. When asked why he volunteers with the 2.0 program, Tom replied "One of my collateral duties is serving my command as the Command Volunteer Coordinator, and when I had heard about the STARBASE project, I started looking into it. After talking to our local SB 2.0 mentor coordinator, Mr. Nick Jordan, I was sold that this would be a fun and exciting opportunity to make a positive influence for a group of young kids in our local community. I very much wanted to be a part of that. On top of that, it was going to be a great experience working with a CAD program to design and build a CO₂ powered car that we would get to race at the end!"

The thing Tom likes best about volunteering for SB 2.0 is working with the kids. Tom says, "This is by far the most rewarding part of this experience. They are smart, and they ask lots of great questions. On top of that, the SB2.0 program really helps to emphasize that technology has far more practical uses other than texting, video games, etc. All of the students that are in SB 2.0 always show up with a smile on their face and are eager to learn. The groups of kids that we had participate in this year's SB2.0 have me looking forward to future projects already!"

When asked why he strongly believes in the SB 2.0 program Tom replied "It makes a hugely positive impact on the school children that it is designed for, as well as on the mentors. I am very happy that I had the opportunity to be a part of this and I am already looking forward to signing up for the next STARBASE."

Tom's advice for anyone thinking about volunteering for SB 2.0 "Don't hesitate to sign up and get involved! It is an absolutely great time; you will get to work side by side with some really smart kids."



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Site Spotlight: STARBASE Oklahoma-Burns Flat

STARBASE Oklahoma was chosen to pilot an afterschool mentoring program in Tulsa three years ago. Designed to further enhance the learning experience, the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) afterschool clubs apply a team mentoring model of best practices from the mentoring field to the DoD STARBASE Program operating environment. The Oklahoma STARBASE 2.0 program has expanded from the Tulsa area to western Oklahoma, including the Burns Flat area where STARBASE Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Space Industry Development Authority (OSIDA) partner to bring STEM education to fifth graders.

Burns Flat lead instructors, Don and Jacquetta Gunter, knew the perfect fit for the first DoD STARBASE 2.0 afterschool club in their area would be Canute Elementary School. They said Canute was the first choice because of the attitude of the students, the teacher's attitude, and the overall behavior in the classroom.

The first club meeting was held January 9th, and there are 10 club members. Club mentors are Joe Savage, an Air Force mechanic who worked for Lockheed Martin; Jason Gunter, formerly of Halliburton in Burns Flat and currently a pumper for Apache Corp in Elk City, Okla.; and Kyle Merz, a college student studying criminal justice.

Joe Savage explained he wanted to be a mentor because he knows there are many inappropriate influences on young people, "I would like to show them a positive influence to help give them self-confidence to do anything they want to do in life." He said he did not have a mentor when he was younger and wished he would have had one to help guide him.



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--Principal
Josh Woodson

It was an easy decision when he was approached by the Gunters to volunteer. "I have been involved with STARBASE for several years through OSIDA in Burns Flat. I knew it would be a first-class program and am looking forward to being a part of it at Canute Elementary School. The Gunters are excellent instructors and truly enjoy what they do; it shows in their presentation of the material."

Jason Gunter echoed Savage's comments. He too wanted to be a good role model and example and, "to be a positive influence on the kids." He enjoyed the first day and was impressed with "how enthusiastic the kids were."

Mentoring clubs are expected to meet no less than four hours per month. STEM activities vary from club to club. For the first STEM activity, they are focusing on mathematics, framing an 8x8 storage building on a scale of 1 inch equals 1 foot. Goals for the club this semester are to focus on learning STEM steps in construction, learning to work as a team with the opposite gender, and gaining self-confidence when trying new things.

School principal Josh Woodson attended the first club meeting along with teacher sponsor, Lana Merz. Principal Woodson said, "I believe the 6th graders will benefit tremendously with the STARBASE 2.0 program. Students who work with STEM love the program. It also gives them the chance to develop a good working relationship among peers and mentors."

Woodson said the students were very responsive and excited when they were told about the STARBASE 2.0 club forming, "The middle school students were excited to be in the STEM program, and no motivation was needed for them to get excited." He said this is the very first afterschool program at Canute.

Spotlighting the Way Ahead: The 2012-13 Call for Participation

Throughout the 2012-13 school year, this newsletter will continue to spotlight the achievements, partnerships, and tips of the participants of the STARBASE 2.0 program.

Each month, a call will be sent out to all site participants focusing on a different aspect of the STARBASE 2.0 program.

The March 2013 issue will spotlight the activities programs use to engage their students. Participants are asked to send information to jennifer.buck@mac.com.

Spotlighting STEM: Newsletter Photo Contest

There is still time to enter! It is time to make a change to the front page of the 2.0 Spotlight. To the right, you will find an explanation of the space we are hoping to fill with a new STEM image that best exemplifies the STARBASE 2.0 program. The image must follow the guidelines below to be considered, and the winning site will be highlighted in the March 2013 edition of the 2.0 Spotlight.



Guidelines:

- » **Submit an image that depicts a STEM scene with a small description about why this image best exemplifies the STARBASE 2.0 program.**
- » **Image file must be in landscape orientation, have a resolution of at least 300 ppi, and be roughly 4x6 inches.**
- » **Entries can come from participants, STEM Mentors, and/or program coordinators.**
- » **Entries must be received by March 25th, 2013 for consideration.**