

Mayfield Schools to launch STEM2M

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Mayfield Schools will launch its STEM2M program next school year.

STEM2M, or science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine, will first start at Mayfield Middle School and eventually be integrated through all grade levels.

"STEM2M is a unique approach to teaching and learning that fosters creativity and innovation while providing challenging, student-centered inquiry based education experiences," Superintendent Keith Kelly said in a letter to the community. "STEM2M is a bold approach to education, based on the principle that academic rigor combined with a focus on the skills colleges and employers seek from our graduates, that will prepare our students for 21st century careers and college readiness."

According to information from the district, Mayfield Middle School will be offering an 18-week elective course called "It's all about STEM" which will be split into two, nine-week classes called medical detectives and design and modeling.

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Teachers in the district are becoming trained in STEM methods to become well educated and prepared in STEM teaching.

Also, a group of administration and teachers has been visiting STEM schools in Ohio to help create the STEM2M program.

In a presentation to the school board in November 2013, the administration gave a brief outline of the program.

"Currently in a traditional classroom, our teachers are

providing 90 percent of the instruction that happens in our classrooms," assistant superintendent Joelle Magyar said during the presentation. "Our goal through STEM is to flip that percentage. Our kids should be facilitating 90 percent of their own learning, while teachers are providing 10 percent of that guidance and facilitation in the classroom. We want to encourage students to become critical thinkers and problem solvers."

One of the main reasons Mayfield is beginning the STEM2M program is to prepare students for college and lead them in the direction of an in-demand career.

Mayfield is planning to make renovations to the schools and also use the former Cuyahoga County Library on the high school campus, to create STEM-friendly learning environment.

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New principal at Mayfield High

It was a feeling of great excitement that came over me recently when I learned Jeff Legan would be taking over for the retiring Tony Loewer as the principal of Mayfield High School next school year.



Andrew Attina

I know Legan on a professional level, as I have worked with him in the past covering news stories both while he was an assistant principal at Mayfield High School and as principal for the last three years at Lander Elementary School in Mayfield Heights.

And I know Legan personally as the principal in charge of Lander, which my daughter attends, as did my son in Legan's first year there.

Legan's professional demeanor and popularity among staff and students have created a positive atmosphere wherever he's been.

When I bump into some of his former high school students, I often ask about their principals, and I cannot recall one time any of them didn't allude to how great Legan was. One young lady even told me one day shortly after Legan left for the Lander job, "You stole our principal" — referring to the fact that my kids were then going to have him in command of their school.

So after hearing the recent news, I sent Legan a quick email

to congratulate him and tell him what a great decision the board made in its selection.

"I am pretty excited for the challenge and can't wait to see my Lander students once they get to the high school. It will be pretty amazing to watch them grow into young men and women," Legan wrote back.

So it's with the utmost confidence I feel Legan will continue to run the school as well as Loewer has, and I'm certain he will only improve the atmosphere at what is already a great school.

is a winning selection

Fitness and fun: The Wildcat Sport & Fitness center at Mayfield High School continues to attract residents of the school district to its facilities by offering basketball, swimming, volleyball and an indoor track and fitness center.

The staff, managed by the Mayfield Heights and Mayfield recreation departments, has done its part by assisting members at the facilities.

As a special offering, the center took a break from its evening hours Feb. 28 to offer Family Fun Night to the public. The event was held in the center's fieldhouse and several games geared toward children were brought in and overseen by members of Mayfield High School's Key Club.

There was also a photo booth, large inflatable obstacle course and even a few members of Mayfield High School's band, who performed.

Small prizes were awarded to the children and generous raffle baskets were given away at the end of the evening.

The night brought in a solid crowd for the activities from 7 to 10 p.m. and provided a nice escape from the bitter cold winter by offering a summer-style event in the dead of winter.

Sean Ward and Bill Thomas, recreation directors of Mayfield Heights and Mayfield, respectively, are already seeking ways to improve on the successful inaugural Family Fun Night for future events.

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Mayfield

Impaired driving, SOM Center Road: A Highland Heights man, 28, was charged with operating a vehicle while impaired at 2:09 a.m. March 2 after he was pulled over for weaving. During the process, officers noted he was uncooperative and kept telling them he shouldn't be arrested because he paid his taxes.

Juvenile complaint, Wilson Mills Road: A first-grade boy at Center Elementary School drew another boy a story book with menacing pictures in it, according to a report Feb. 25. School officials are working with officers in the bullying incident that appears to be an ongoing problem between the two boys.

Theft, SOM Center Road: A man reported Feb. 25 that his expired license plates were stolen off his wrecked vehicle.

Fraud, Thornapple Drive: A resident said Feb. 28 that someone tried to use his credit card fraudulently twice over the Internet for purchases of more than \$1,000. He said earlier in the month that he received a call from someone who said he had a computer virus and he believed that may be how his credit card information was obtained. Both attempted charges were denied.

Impaired driving, Aintree Park Drive: Around 2:30 a.m. March 1, a vehicle was discovered stuck in the tree lawn in front of Heinen's. The driver, a Willowick woman, 23, was trying to dig the car out with a snow brush. She was subsequently arrested for operating a vehicle while impaired after she was found to be over the legal blood alcohol limit.

Police Bulletin

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Mayfield schools

Students to receive STEM2M education

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The Mayfield City School District is adopting a new science and technology-based approach to education in an effort to prepare children for today's job market — where medical and engineering professionals are in high demand.

STEM2M is Mayfield's version of the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) initiatives being implemented at schools throughout the country, but it also incorporates medicine (2M).

In the 2014-15 school year, eighth-grade students will have the opportunity to take an 18-week elective course dubbed "It's All About STEM" to prepare them for the STEM classes that will be offered at the high school beginning in 2015-16. The eighth graders will study nine weeks of "Medical Detectives" and nine weeks of "Design and Modeling."

When they begin the 2015-16 school year as freshmen, the students will be able to choose from

a biomedical strand of courses that would count toward science graduation requirements or an engineering strand for elective credits.

Mayfield Schools will also renovate the former Mayfield branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library at 6080 Wilson Mills Road into a "Center for Innovation," where STEM-based learning will take place.

The \$5 million facility will feature a fabrication lab, presentation center and more, according to Assistant Superintendent Jelle Magyar. There, students in STEM-based classes and those taking related courses at Excel TECC technical school will work side-by-side.

But Magyar emphasizes that STEM is more than a place or a strand of courses. "It's a teaching philosophy," that encourages project-based learning, research, critical thinking, collaboration and presentations, she said.

"Their future looks a lot different than what ours looked like," Magyar said about the jobs

that will be available for current eighth graders by the time they graduate college.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, STEM-related jobs are expected to grow 16 percent for mathematics-based careers up to 62 percent for biomedical engineering careers throughout the next seven years.

The Mayfield School district is home to several businesses in those fields, including Rockwell Automation, Hillcrest Hospital and Parker Hannifin. Magyar said the school has met with many of those companies and mayors of the surrounding communities about STEM.

"The whole idea is to sustain

our own community. We want to provide kids with the skills they need to be employable and college-ready when they graduate," said Magyar, a 1998 Mayfield High School graduate.

Magyar and other district officials, teachers and administrators have been visiting schools that currently offer STEM-based classes and teachers will undergo training this summer.

She said the school district will hold a parent meeting in May to discuss the initiative and there will be a STEM information table set up at Wednesday's science fair.

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