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STREAM Charter School on Facebook

What is a Charter School?

A charter school is a public school that provides instruction in any combination of grades, kindergarten through grade twelve. Parents, teachers, or community members may initiate a charter petition, which is typically presented to and approved by a local school district governing board. Specific goals and operating procedures for a charter school are detailed in the agreement between the charter authorizing entity and the charter developer. Students enroll in charter schools on a voluntary basis. (CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cs/re/qandasec2mar04.asp>)

What is STREAM?

STREAM is Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.

STREAM believes that a strong foundation in science and mathematics provides a critical component to a successful 21st Century life and career. **STREAM** believes in the integration of technology, literacy, and the arts throughout the curriculum. This integrated learning provides support that meets the varied needs of all students.

STEM

STEM instruction is an integrated/interrelated model that bridges Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Through design and problem/project-based learning situations, students begin to weave their understanding of STEM into an interrelated use of skills rather than four discrete subjects. As a result, concepts once taught in isolation are made relevant and tangible through students' application of these interdisciplinary skills.

Reading

Reading, analyzing, and understanding both fiction and non-fiction is important. **STREAM** will emphasize a broad understanding of both literary and informational text while moving students to reading proficiency, a love of literature, and an appreciation of the use of precise language. This emphasis on both literary and informational text follows the intention of California's CCSS.

Arts

Research confirms a close correlation between the arts and improved math and reading skills. The findings add scientific support to the observation that children who participate in the arts also do well academically and suggest that changes in attention networks in the brain may be one reason with increases of 22 percent in English test scores and 20 percent in math scores at elementary schools with superior music education. **STREAM** embeds the visual and performance arts in the curriculum and provide opportunity for students to present their learning to their families and the community, through the arts, on a regular basis.

Statement of Beliefs

- Every student can learn and learns uniquely at his/her own pace.
- Parents are the first and primary teachers. They are responsible for their children's basic needs and values.
- Teachers should come alongside students to model a positive, face to face, long term relationship and effectively lead students through an inquisitive, guided discovery of learning objectives.
- Cultural diversity enriches our learning community.
- Students excel academically when schools provide a safe, positive, organized setting with clearly defined academic and behavior expectations.
- Accelerated learning increases and negative behavior decreases when students are engaged in a dynamic, highly challenging educational environment.
- Effective character education enhances the academic program.
- Students should engage in effective, real world problem and project based learning experiences.
- Knowledge, application, and integration of today's technology helps prepare students for tomorrow's world.
- Paper and pencil, books, lectures, computers, collaboration, songs and chants, Legos, scissors, teachers and parents, test tubes, robots, watercolors, music, P.E. and learning centers are just some examples of the many important components in our learning environment.
- Achievement goals must be set for individual students, teachers, and the learning community.

Mission Statement

The mission of **STREAM** is to prepare students to be confident, equipped, intentional, and collaborative 21st Century thinkers who are motivated and skilled to meet the challenges of their rapidly changing world. **STREAM** develops future leaders by encouraging academic excellence, building critical and creative thinking skills, heightening curiosity, supporting collaboration, providing rich access to technology, and enriching social development in a nurturing environment. **STREAM** will equip students to succeed intellectually and socially through collaborative problem and project-based inquiry learning and service learning projects with a **STREAM** focus.

Vision Statement

STREAM's vision is to provide a model for student learning and educational delivery of 21st Century knowledge and skills. Students will leave **STREAM** engaged in continuous learning, confident in their knowledge and abilities, able to make responsible choices, and committed to making a positive impact on the community and the wider world. **STREAM** will collaborate and share what we learn about successfully integrating **STREAM** (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) into a rigorous academic program that serves a diverse student body. By providing another educational option for Oroville families, **STREAM** will complement the learning programs and activities of OCESD and enhance the greater community.

*How is **STREAM** distinct?*

All **STREAM** students will work alongside their parent(s) and teachers to develop and follow an Individualized Learning Plan. The plan will focus on student strengths, challenges, learning needs, and preferred learning styles. Family involvement is critical to student success.

STREAM's approach to instruction and student learning is distinct:

- An extended school day;
- Access to a challenging curriculum;
- A technology rich environment;
- Problem and project based learning;
- A collaborative model;
- Arts embedded curriculum;
- Individualization for each student;
- Higher expectations;
- Long-term and positive relationships through looping and a smaller school; and
- Increased family and community involvement.

STREAM will:

- use the California's Next Generation Science Standards, California's other subject area frameworks, and California's Common Core State Standards (CCSS) as the foundation that all curriculum is built upon;
- integrate technology, literacy, and the arts into all curricular areas, providing supports that meet the varied learning needs of students on multiple levels;
- combine traditional and inquiry-based learning practices to ensure that students master both concepts and skills in all of their classes;
- emphasize active engagement in learning, providing opportunities for critical thinking, for asking challenging questions, for problem solving and decision making, for creativity and innovation, and to develop both personal and group responsibility and workforce skills in real-world contexts;
- provide opportunity to develop long-term relationships in a safe, caring, and nurturing environment;
- integrate spiraling concepts in learning, so that students revisit core skills and concepts many times through the years; and
- encourage each student and her/his parent to participate in her/his educational goals and learning.

Who will STREAM Serve?

STREAM serves families in the greater Oroville area. We strive to ensure that our student body will be representative of the general population residing within the District's boundaries. In addition to being ethnically diverse, **STREAM** will serve families from a variety of linguistic and economic backgrounds: according to the OCESD schools' accountability report cards (SARC), approximately 9.8% of the students in OCESD are designated as English Learners, 80% are designated as socioeconomically disadvantaged, and 61.5% qualify for the Federal School Lunch Program (free and reduced lunch). Stream intends to reflect the district ethnic demographics (according to CDE) of: 4% African-American; 10% Asian; 16% Latino/Hispanic; 5% Native American; 9% Two or more races; 55% White.

Why a STREAM Focus?

STREAM begins with Science. This may feel counter-intuitive due to the many years of societal emphasis in the ELA and Math standards. Allowing the science framework to take the lead in our thematic studies is what puts the "S" in **STREAM** and gives our educational program a differentiated quality. Much has been written about the need for Science and STEM in our schools in order to better prepare the American workforce for the 21st century. There are also some basic educational reasons (which are intuitive) for leading with science:

- We lead with science because it can be the most engaging of the subjects.

- Science provides the subject of the study, where the other content areas offer the skills with which we engage the subject.
- Science is the “rack” on which we will hang all other content standards.

Leading with ELA or math standards would be like running without a finish line or playing football without a ball. Much of our sense for the need to reform education is rooted in the teaching of disembodied skills and facts.

Students use critical and creative thinking skills to address science standards while applying math, literacy, social studies, art, and problem-solving skills to real-life situations. The teacher guides students through thematic content-area units. The age of the students and the scope of the projects determines the length of time the projects will take to accomplish. These units may involve action within the school or into the greater community. Each thematic unit includes the following five stages:

- Investigation (research)
- Preparation and planning
- Action (project)
- Reflection (portfolio, collection of work completed)
- Demonstration (publishing, presenting, and communicating results)

How will STREAM operate?

We will follow the Oroville Union High School calendar closely, with an exception of starting school one day earlier and two days out in March, when teachers attend a technology conference.

Schedule

Students attend full days on Monday through Thursday and a half day on Fridays (8am to noon).

Kindergarten - Monday through Thursday from 8am to 2pm.

First and Second Grades - Monday through Thursday from 8am to 3pm.

Third through Eighth Grades - Monday through Thursday from 8am to 4pm.

We are partnering with BCOE to provide an affordable afterschool program until 6pm daily.

Homework

STREAM follows a "flipped" model, where homework primarily consists of concept videos with a short response that students email to teachers, while the work that one might normally think of as homework will be completed during class. Our goal is to minimize time and frustration and maximize involvement for parents by brushing up on concepts at home alongside their child, while students complete assignments at school with the teacher in the room to help tutor them through difficult concepts.

Technology

Students will use an iPad that will become their pencil, paper, and textbook. Connectivity at home will be helpful, because a student can still connect to school even if they are sick at home (if they are able). **STREAM** will also utilize portable computer labs and a technology lab.

Class Size

We have nine classrooms (TK-8) of 28-30 students during our first year.