

Authentic Learning ...

The inquiry-based instructional program at Cedar Park nurtures our students' spirit of curiosity, questioning, reflection, openness to new ideas and respect for evidence. Cedar Park is committed to using innovative, cooperative methods and an interdisciplinary curriculum that embraces creativity as expressed through multiple intelligences and multiculturalism.

Outdoor learning is abundant at Cedar Park offering students many opportunities to explore the Minnesota Native Habitat Gardens, outdoor classroom spaces, raised beds, compost bin, tulip gardens, bird feeding stations and interactive weather station. Students and teachers fully utilize the outdoor learning amenities to expand their knowledge of the natural world and develop increasing levels of personal responsibility for environmental stewardship.

Field studies, virtual field trips and videoconferencing offers students learning beyond the school and classroom during the year that closely aligns and enhances learning objectives. Field studies may include opportunities to explore Lebanon Hills Regional Park, The WORKS Technology Museum, or the Science Museum of Minnesota.

Parent and community involvement enhances the quality of the STEM education at Cedar Park. Parents teach afterschool enrichment classes, offer exploration classes, help maintain the outdoor learning spaces, and volunteer their time in classrooms providing support for teachers and students. Cedar Park continues to develop collaborations and partnerships with educational institutions, businesses and organizations to provide rich, meaningful learning opportunities for our students. Some of our partnerships have included University of Minnesota, The WORKS Technology Museum, Dakota County Natural Resources Department, Science Museum of Minnesota, Dakota County Technical College, Flint Hills and Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

At the core...

All District 196 elementary schools offer the same rigorous core curriculum in reading, writing, math, science and social studies. At Cedar Park, these important areas are an essential part of each student's day. STEM studies are woven into other classes as appropriate, and students continue to receive rigorous instruction in:

Language arts, which includes reading, writing, listening, speaking, word study and handwriting. Knowledge and skills are acquired through connected experiences between home, school and community.

Social studies, which provides the opportunity for each student to acquire knowledge and develop skills necessary for social, political and economic participation in a diverse, interdependent and changing world.

Music and Art, which provides specialized instruction that explores, teaches and expands expression, imagination and creation.

Cedar Park Elementary - Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) School

7500 Whitney Drive • Apple Valley, MN 55124
952-431-8360 • www.district196.org/cp
Student day: 9:25 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

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Educating our students to reach their full potential

Serving all or part of Rosemount, Apple Valley, Eagan, Burnsville, Coates, Inver Grove Heights, Lakeville, and Empire and Vermillion Townships

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Investigate the present ...
invent the future

SCHOOL DISTRICT 196
MAGNET
school

Independent School District 196

Rosemount • Apple Valley • Eagan

Cedar Park Elementary



SCIENCE



TECHNOLOGY



ENGINEERING



MATHEMATICS

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
ENGINEERING AND
MATH (STEM) SCHOOL

Vision

Cedar Park Elementary STEM School welcomes and respects all students and their families as members of the Cedar Park community of learners. Offering a comprehensive education with high expectations and achievement, Cedar Park prepares its students for life-long learning by developing their confidence and abilities as learners and problem-solvers. Cedar Park is committed to using innovative, cooperative methods and an interdisciplinary curriculum that embraces creativity as expressed through multiple intelligences and multiculturalism.

Mission

Cedar Park students will become scientifically, technologically, and mathematically literate. They will use scientific, technological, and mathematical principles in real-life applications such as design engineering and service projects that contribute to the community. They will use what they know about what already exists (science, math and technology) to create new ideas and products (engineering). Cedar Park students will celebrate and embrace diversity. They will learn to work with others respectfully and collaboratively.



“The principle goal of education in the schools should be creating men and women who are capable of doing new things, not simply repeating what other generations have done.”

– Jean Piaget



Science

Cedar Park students are actively involved in learning about the world in ways that pattern how scientists explore. The instructional program is inquiry-based to nurture within our students the spirit of curiosity, questioning, reflection, openness to new ideas, and respect for evidence. Our Science Specialists teach students, mentor staff, and bring a wealth of experiences and resources to the classrooms. The Science Labs are well-equipped and model best practices in environmental science by using energy efficient and sustainable products and building practices. Our Minnesota native habitat learning area allows students to explore plants, insects and small animals on campus.

Technology

Technology offers relevant and engaging opportunities for student learning. Cedar Park students learn new ways to create, communicate, problem solve, and collaborate using 21st century skills. Our interactive classrooms are equipped with SMART Boards, LCD projectors, document cameras, wireless microphones and enhanced speaker sound systems. Students have easy access to computers with our mobile laptop carts in addition to computer labs. Our technology program teaches both students and staff how to integrate document cameras, proscopes, MP3 players, digital cameras, GPS devices, and videoconferencing equipment into daily learning and curriculum. Students participate in real scientific studies and share their findings within our school and throughout the world using technology.

Engineering

Cedar Park students design and create...just as engineers do. Engineering in the classroom is an effective way to provide authentic learning that encourages students to understand issues, evaluate problems, and apply processes that can lead to innovative solutions. Cedar Park has a very unique engineering classroom that houses a rich array of construction resources, carpentry tools, and mechanical and electrical materials. Our innovative program is integrated with core curricular subjects and incorporates design challenges, Engineering is Elementary and LEGO Engineering curriculum resources, and the carpentry workshop to teach creativity, problem solving, collaboration, and working in 3D (three-dimensional).

Mathematics

Our core curriculum, Bridges in Mathematics, features a unique blend of problem solving and skill building in a clearly articulated program that moves through each grade level with common models, teaching strategies, and objectives.

Our mathematics instruction features a combination of whole-group, small-group, and independent activities. Lessons incorporate increasingly complex visual models - seeing, touching, working with manipulatives, and sketching ideas - to create pictures in the mind's eye that helps learners invent, understand, and remember mathematical ideas. The curriculum facilitates the development of mathematical thinking by encouraging students to explore, test, and justify their reasoning. Our well-equipped math lab offers a functional space beyond the classroom to explore mathematics. Additional enrichment and support for students is provided by one of our trained specialists.



“To invent, you need a good imagination and a pile of junk.”

– Thomas Edison