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Thursday, January 14, 2016

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Hoopeston Area Middle School unveils new technology lab

The latest in technology will be available to Hoopeston Area students, thanks to a new STEM lab.

The lab was unveiled to the public Wednesday, complete with ribbon cutting and demonstrations of the hands-on technology now available to students.

The lab combines STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education in one room, including the school's one-to-one Chromebook technology with 3D printers and a windmill, with a robot in the works, said Principal Anne Burton.

"It's been a vision that we've had here at the middle school for a while," she told assembled guests, including community and county leaders, as well as representatives of other entities in Illinois.

The lab is under the direction of the school's science teachers, Rich

See STEM on other side



Hoopeston Area Middle School students Beckett Jett, Macy Hayes, Alyssa Marshall, Emma Glotzbach and Tyler Gillan watch as science teacher John Klaber demonstrates setting up a pattern to run a 3D printer, part of the school's new STEM lab. The lab was unveiled to local officials Wednesday morning.

VFW Menu

Orange & 4th Ave., Hoopeston

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Mon.: BBQ pulled pork sandwich, baked beans, slaw

Tues.: Lasagna, green beans, garlic bread

Wed.: Beef & noodles, mashed potatoes, peas, roll

Thurs. Country fried steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn

Fri.: Angus ribeye steak Sandwiches & broccoli/ cauli

salad

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Mon.: RANCBURGERS

Wed.: TACO NIGHT

Thurs.: 50¢ WINGS AND \$5 PITCHERS

Fri.: 16 oz. ANGUS RIBEYE DINNER OR CHICKEN BREAST DINNER

Saturday, Jan. 16 :JIM MCBRIDE THE HARMONICA

PLAYING DJ. Sit back and listen to the music or get him to

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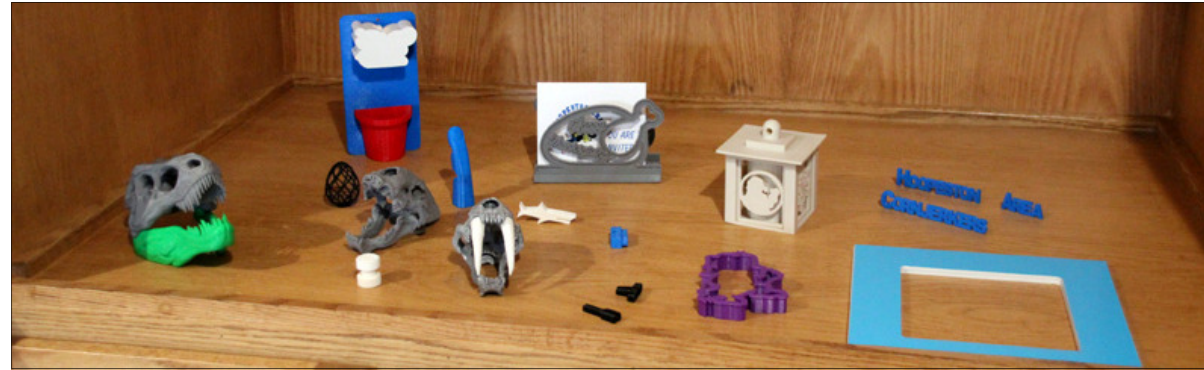
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STEM continued from other side

Stipp and John Klaber. Educating will take place in many ways, including exploring students' creativity. Non-traditional STEM tools, such as stand mixers, left over from the discontinued home economics class, has found a home in the lab. Some mixers will be used for science projects but at least one will be used by students who want to create through cooking, Burton said, adding she plans to bring a sewing machine to the lab, too.

The cost of creating the lab so far is \$103,000, excluding final totals on electric and plumbing, said building/grounds director Mark Eighner. Of that, about \$30,000 was spent on removing asbestos ceiling tiles from the room. Another \$53,000 was spent on lab equipment and fixtures. Three 3D printers round out the largest costs, at \$9,200, he said.

The transformation from classroom to STEM lab has been paid from district funds, with the 3D printers funded by the district's Brick Project fundraiser. Information on the fundraiser may be found at www.hoopeston.k12.il.us/



Items made with HAMS' 3D printer

bricks/brick1.html.

Officials hope to get grants to offset the cost of some of the lab and are working with Champaign-based The Grant Helpers to find grants to replace funds spent on the project.

Carol Timms, of The Grant Helpers, who attended Wednesday's ceremony, said the company has worked

with the district on receiving about \$300,000 in energy grants and is now working on "trying to bring some funds to (the STEM lab)."

Creating the lab was a collaborative effort, said Emily Brown, district curriculum coordinator, thanking Supt. Hank Hornbeck, the district board, Eighner and his employees the technology and industrial technology departments.

"It's a great day to be a Cornjerker," she said.



Anne Burton, Hoopeston Area Middle School principal, cuts the ribbon officially opening the school's new STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) lab. School officials and representatives of Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce, Vermilion County Board, City of Hoopeston and other agencies attended the lab's opening.

From the Blotter

Michael S. Winland, 30, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 3:20 a.m. Tuesday to Parkview Court. He was charged with domestic battery on a complaint from a 26-year-old Hoopeston woman.

He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident reported at 7:55 a.m. Tuesday in the 800 block of South Second Ave. Something hit a utility pole, then left the scene.

A flat screen television was found Tuesday afternoon in the alley of the 800 block of West Washington. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 42. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 38. Tomorrow rain likely, then rain/snow. High 42, low 26.

BINGO

7 p.m. every Thursday

Hoopeston

American Legion

502 E. Penn

Phil & Mary's

UPTOWN SALOON

Saturday, Jan. 15

The Fringe 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Drink Specials:

\$2 off 12 oz. Domestic Cans

50¢ off all Bombs

January 16

DJ Karaoke 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

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