

STEM at Roosevelt High School

By Principal Sylvia Tovar

Science is serious stuff in Mr. Restrepo's classroom, but it's also full of fun activities and projects that just happen to be educational. Recently, to illustrate the size of the universe, his students created a scale model that included an 8-foot sun, a football field and the nearest planet, a pea-sized Mercury. Such active learning projects form the basis of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Small School, or STEM, for short.

For students who always wonder how things work, the STEM coursework will allow their curious minds to explore all types of engineering – civil, electronic, mechanical, chemical and environmental – as well as the life, physical and natural sciences, and many types of technology and computer-related projects and occupations.

Partnerships with, STEM Up, California State University Los Angeles and the East Los Angeles College will allow teachers to develop advanced programs in robotics, engineering, computer repair and technology.

With an emphasis on non-fiction writing, students may meet their English requirements by writing essays about a science topic, or perhaps about a controversy in the history of mathematics. Teachers already are actively exploring unique teaching methods and materials that will create the kind of personalized learning that leads to enthusiastic and engaged students. After all, it's not every day that your teacher turns a lecture into a game show, complete with mini flashlights and contests.

With high academic expectations to motivate them, STEM students will be encouraged to learn, to prepare for college, and to pursue careers that will make them competitive in current and future economies.



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