

# Innovate, Inspire, Influence

## CHECK OUT THE COOL THINGS HAPPENING AT HEWES MIDDLE SCHOOL!

By Hewes Principal **Eric Kilian**

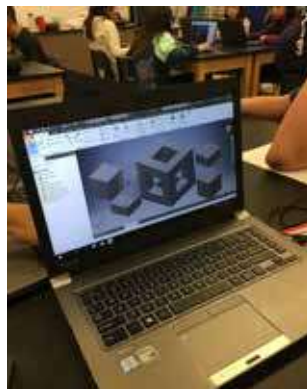


The STEM program at Hewes continues to expand and push the limits into new possibilities. While already having STEM 1 and STEM 2 courses for seventh

and eighth-grade students, this year a sixth grade STEM class was added to the elective wheel. In this course, students begin to learn about forensics, 3D printing and amazingly, even designing their own Apps that actually work. The Apps are designed in groups and work in real time from the design phase to the ‘test’ phase on an external device in real time. The students begin learning algorithms in computer science, block coding, and debugging. The apps students create are for real purposes that benefit students, professionals, and public health. The “force has awoken” in this process at Hewes, as students are loving this inspiring process.

In our seventh and eighth grade STEM classes, students are working on app design and innovating in a number of other ways: building and programming robots to drive through a maze autonomously, furthering skills on the design program Autodesk to print out a variety of items on the 3D printer, and our students are entering the Makers Challenge at Chapman University. Groups work to invent and create a prototype of an invention that will better society. One project last year was a drone designed with a camera mounted with the ability to scan fires before firefighters enter.

As we continue to build and enhance this program each year, we are currently planning to add a “Drone Coding” class as a 6th grade elective and to add resources to further build and support our Robotics Team. Not only are students exploring new concepts, getting hands-on learning, and developing their problem solving, these skills prepare them for future career paths. Most immediately, these skills prepare them for the engineering and robotics courses at Foothill High School and their additional Career Technology Pathways such as Graphic De-



sign and Video Production. The teachers leading powerful this “Jedi level” work are Kim Pyle (Mrs. Pyle) and Eryn O’Day (Mrs. O’Day). “The students blow us away with their thinking and solutions everyday,” states Mrs. Pyle. The STEM program at Hewes is thriving and our students are certain to positively influence the world in the years ahead!