



## School of Choice with Innovative Programs Focused on Engineering and Art

### **School Focus and Development**

The IDEA Academy @Cottonwood is a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, and art) academy and the newest school of choice in the Westside Union School District for K - 6th grades. Our specialized program provides an educational choice for learning the California standards in math, english language arts and literacy in history/social studies, and science through the innovative approaches of design thinking and Project Based Learning (PBL) and use of the nationally recognized engineering curriculum, Project Lead the Way (PLTW). Students have increased opportunities to participate in robotics, coding, makerspace education, music and art. We are also an AVID certified school and use AVID's college-career prep strategies to help kids achieve success. Our school campus has a new makerspace and engineering lab, and is currently undergoing additional modernization to bring in new state-of-the-art permanent facilities for STEAM learning. Students are required to wear a uniform. Parents should note that the school will continue to be under construction during the remainder of the 2017 - 2018 school year.

### **Why STEAM?**

The U. S. Department of Education reports that STEM/STEAM related jobs will grow by 14% from 2010 to 2020 and will continue to be in high demand well into the future. A STEAM approach teaches students how to think critically, problem solve, and apply creativity and the design process to real world problems. These are the skills that will prepare today's students to be tomorrow's innovators, entrepreneurs, and leaders that create jobs, grow the economy, transform their futures, and make a positive impact on society and the world.

### **How are Students Admitted?**

To be admitted to the school, parents of current students and all other interested students will need to file an intradistrict transfer request. If more requests than there are seats available, a random lottery process is implemented and seats assigned on the following priority basis:

1. Preference will be given to families that reside within the pre 2017-18 Cottonwood School Boundaries..
2. Preference will be given to siblings of students who attend the school or who have been admitted under the intradistrict transfer policy.
3. Transfers during the annual open enrollment window, will be processed before any received thereafter, including those that may meet criteria 1 and/or 2.

After available seats are assigned, a waiting list will be developed and seats will be offered through the end of the 3rd quarter each year. Thereafter, students will be admitted in the transfer process for the following school year.

### **What if I have Questions?**

Please contact Laura Duran, school principal, via email at [l.duran@westside.k12.ca.us](mailto:l.duran@westside.k12.ca.us) or by telephone at (661) 267-2825.