

EDUCATION

GUIDE



Fun and accessible STEM resources for kids

BPT) - Inspiring kids' interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) now could help prepare them for the jobs of tomorrow. Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that occupations related to STEM are projected to grow 13 percent by 2022 - faster than projections for all other occupations over the same time.

Although the need for professionals with STEM experience is growing, a recent survey of U.S. high school students shows that only 24 percent of boys and 11 percent of girls are interested in STEM careers. Research also shows that youth who have extracurricular STEM experiences before graduating from high school are more likely to explore higher education and career opportunities in STEM.

To help meet the future demand for tech leaders, private companies are stepping up to help inspire kids' passion for STEM and develop the next generation of skilled professionals. HughesNet, America's No. 1 choice for satellite Internet, supports 4-H, America's largest, positive youth development organization, to give youth across the U.S. the opportunity to engage in STEM activities. Since 2014, the two organizations have worked together to increase youth access to STEM education and, this year, introduced STEM Lab, a free on-line resource offering exciting, hands-on activities for youth ages 4 to 16.

"I found great activities for my kids on the STEM Lab website," said Tracy Colliton, a mom from Maryland who tried the STEM Lab projects with her preschool-aged daughters. "STEM is exciting when you can teach ideas through hands-on activities that engage all the senses. They loved the Fizzy Foam Fun and Windmill experiments, and I will be on the lookout for the next cool project."

With STEM Lab, parents are empowered to guide their children's early exposure to STEM, which is proven to increase their chances of pursuing those fields. Each STEM Lab activity includes easy, step-by-step instructions, discussion questions to help guide the experiential learning process and clear explanations of the sci-

entific concepts at work. In addition, each activity includes a list of supplies, which are mostly basic household items, and a "Messy Meter," ranging from "clean" to "mega mess," to help parents plan their budding scientists' activity. And to keep kids immersed and excited, new projects are added regularly for continual enrichment.



"HughesNet wants to ensure that all children, no matter where they live, have access to hands-on, experiential STEM learning," said Peter Gulla, senior vice president of marketing at Hughes.

"It is a part of our company's larger commitment to bridging the technology divide. Kids who tap into their curiosity and enthusiasm for STEM now will grow into the leaders of tomorrow - ensuring our country stays competitive in the global economy and powering our connected future."

Another fun way for kids to get involved in STEM is 4-H National Youth Science Day. Celebrated throughout October, this program centers on the "Code Your World" four-part challenge.

"Code Your World" teaches kids and teens with little to no coding experience to apply computer science to the world around them with fun, interactive challenges. For instance, "Code Your Dance," an unplugged activity, uses the power of dance to teach concepts like algorithms, loops and conditionals. With another activity, "Color Your World," kids color and

solutions employing an optimized mix of satellite and terrestrial technologies. The JUPITER, System is the world's most widely deployed High-Throughput Satellite (HTS) platform, operating on more than 20 satellites by leading service providers, delivering a wide range of broadband enterprise, mobility and cellular backhaul applications. To date, Hughes has shipped more than 7 million terminals of all types to customers in over 100 countries, representing approximately 50 percent market share, and its technology is powering broadband services to aircraft around the world.

Headquartered outside Washington, D.C., in Germantown, Maryland, USA, Hughes operates sales and support offices worldwide, and is a wholly owned subsidiary of EchoStar Corporation (NASDAQ: SATS), a premier global provider of satellite operations. For additional information about Hughes, please visit www.hughes.com and follow @HughesConnects on Twitter.

ABOUT 4-H

4-H, the nation's largest youth development organization, grows confident young people who are empowered for life today and prepared for career tomorrow. 4-H programs empower nearly six million young people across the U.S. through experiences that

develop critical life skills. 4-H is the youth development program of our nation's Cooperative Extension System and USDA, and serves every county and parish in the U.S. through a network of 110 public universities and more than 3,000 local Extension offices. Globally, 4-H collaborates with independent programs to empower one million youth in 50 countries. The research-backed 4-H experience grows young people who are four times more likely to contribute to their communities; two times more likely to make healthier choices; two times more likely to be civically active; and two times more likely to participate in STEM programs.

Learn more about 4-H at www.4-H.org, find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/4-H and on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/4H>.

create maps to learn about graph theory, patterns and algorithms.

Teachers and parents interested in National Youth Science Day can participate online or buy activity kits, which include supplies for up to 10 participants.

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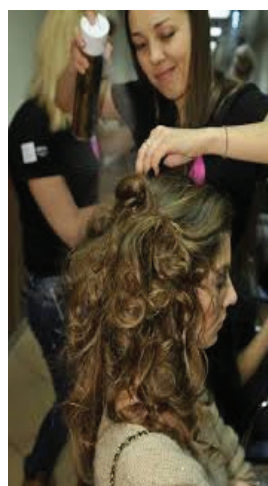
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Seven ways newspapers benefit students

Classrooms have come a long way since the days when pioneering settlers would send their children to single-room schoolhouses. Modern classrooms might be technical marvels, but one less flashy learning tool remains as valuable as ever. Newspapers might not be as glamorous as tablets or other gadgets, but they are still an invaluable resource to educators and students. The following are seven ways in which newspapers in the classroom can benefit students.

1. Newspapers build vocabulary. Numerous studies have found that reading can improve youngsters' vocabulary. Each day, newspapers are filled with fresh stories that can introduce kids to new words, helping them to strengthen their vocabularies and make them more effective communicators.

2. Newspapers improve reading skills. Like the old adage says, "Practice makes perfect." Reading newspapers each day can help kids develop their reading and comprehension skills.

3. Newspapers promote critical thinking. Newspaper reporters are trained to objectively report the news, sharing facts without allowing their own opinions to influence their stories. Educators can choose stories from the newspaper to serve as catalysts for discussions that focus not just on the facts listed in the story, but what might be behind them. Such discussions can help youngsters develop their critical thinking skills.

4. Newspapers bring ideas and current events to life. Many children are aware of major world events, even if they don't know or understand the details. Newspaper articles about world events can be used as avenues to discussions about what's going on in the world.

5. Newspapers build global aware-

ness. Customized newsfeeds funneled through social media outlets can make it hard for young people to recognize and understand the world beyond their own communities and interests. Each day, newspapers include local, national and international stories that can illustrate to kids that there's a world beyond their own.



6. Newspapers promote social consciousness. Without newspapers, young people may never be exposed to the social issues facing their own communities or those issues that are affecting people across the country and the world. Newspapers provide unbiased exposure to such issues, potentially leading youngsters to further explore topics that are shaping their world and even encouraging them to form their own opinions.

7. Newspapers make learning fun. According to a 2017 report from Common Sense Media, kids younger than eight spend an average of two hours and 19 minutes per day looking at screens. Newspapers provide a welcome break from tablets, smartphones and computers, and kids may have fun flipping pages and getting a little ink on their hands.

Newspapers remain invaluable resources that can benefit students in myriad ways.

Great reasons to visit your local library

Many people have a wonderful resource at their disposal just minutes from their homes. This resource can transport them to distant lands, teach their children valuable lessons and serve as a great place to meet new friends.

So what is this magical place? The local library.

Libraries are filled with books for adults and children. But libraries have even more than books to offer, making them an invaluable resource for the entire community. The following are just a handful of the many great reasons to visit your local library.

- Reading may help improve long-term mental health. A 2001 study from researchers at Case Western Reserve University found that patients with Alzheimer’s disease were less active in early and middle adulthood in regard to intellectual, passive and physical activities than people who did not have AD. Young adults and middle-aged men and women



who visit their local libraries and check out a good book might decrease their risk for cognitive decline later in life.

- Reading can improve your vocabulary, even as you get older. Reading for pleasure as a child has long been linked to helping young people age 16 and under

develop strong reading and math skills. But a recent study from researchers at the University of London that examined how the vocabularies of more than 9,400 people developed between the ages of 16 and 42 found that vocabulary continued to improve long after teenage years. By continuing to read books from their

local libraries into adulthood, adults can further develop their vocabularies.

- Libraries provide lots of free entertainment. Libraries are home to thousands of books, but that’s not all you can find at your local branch. Newspapers, magazines, CDs, and DVDs are some examples of the forms of entertainment available at local libraries. Better yet, such entertainment is free to card holders.

- Libraries offer age-appropriate programs for kids. Some parents may lament the lack of programs available for their youngsters. Such parents are urged to visit their local libraries, which are often home to many programs that can inspire kids to read and foster their creativity. The scope of kid-friendly programs at your local library is wide and may range from sing-a-long sessions for toddlers to group art programs for preschool-aged children to STEM-based programs for elementary and secondary school students. The local library is an invaluable resource than can benefit people of all ages.



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Tips for learning a foreign language

One of the skills that can open more doors, and even help create personal satisfaction, is learning a new language. Knowing more than one language can have various cognitive benefits as well. The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages states speaking more than one language can lead to improved memory and problem-solving skills, and may enhance one's ability to concentrate.

Children take to foreign languages quickly and readily, but people of all ages can learn a foreign language.

- Set learning goals. Focus on specific, measurable outcomes. This can include learning a set number of words in a certain period of time to reduce feelings of being overwhelmed by the vast task of learning a new language.
- Invest the time. Set aside consistent time each day to devote to learning a new language. Neuroplasticity, or the ability of the brain to form and reorganize connections, doesn't come as easily for adults as it does for children. Therefore, practice is necessary for adults to learn new skills.
- Use the correct learning style. Some people are visual learners and others auditory. Finding out one's learning style can make the process go smoothly.
- Tie learning to culture. Having a vested interest in the culture of the language a person is trying to learn can facilitate the process and make it more interesting.

- There's no "easy" language. Keep in mind that all languages have their challenges, and one is not easier to learn than another, say linguists. Accepting challenges and sticking with the process can help avid learners along.

Learning a new language can open doors and lead to both professional and personal growth.

National Powerhouse CHARIHotech Delivers Award-Winning Programs

By Rona Mann

When you come right down to it, it's really all about focus.

It's about the focus a student establishes for his or her future.

The focus their teachers have to enable them to reach those goals.

And above all, it's about the foresight of a school and a program that has been carefully and specifically culled to partner instructors with students, the focus being reaching that common goal.

CHARIHotech, a leader statewide in supplementing basic secondary education with programs specifically geared to a student's future interest, is proud of all 22 programs that are available not only to Chariho students, but to any student in the state looking for a first rate program that's a priority and not merely an alternative. One of their most popular and successful is the Criminal Justice Program headed by Lt. Robert Wild, a 22 year veteran of the North Providence Police Department.

Wild, who also has eight years of Military Police background, initiated the program, albeit a bit reluctantly in 2012. "I told them, I'm not a teacher, but they wanted me anyway because of my background. So I was the first instructor in the Criminal Justice Program, starting with just 25 kids. Now we have 120 in the program," he said proudly. The reason for this tremendous growth is the fact that Criminal Justice is not an elective nor spinoff of another program...it is a solid curriculum with a plan and focus that will completely prepare any student for a career in Criminal Justice, whether in police work, law, or public administration.

Working shoulder to shoulder with Wild is Deputy Chief Kristian Calise, also a veteran of the North Providence Police Department. "As a matter of fact," Lt. Wild remembers, "I did his background check." During his tenure with the force, Deputy Calise ran the Professional Standards Unit in addition to being a fire-



arms instructor and expert. At CHARIHotech he teaches the freshman and sophomore classes, giving students a solid background in the different roles of the profession. "The kids have an opportunity to both obtain and process fingerprints, they thoroughly learn the Bill of Rights with heavy emphasis on the 4th, 5th, 6th and 8th amendments that deal with protection from unreasonable search and seizure, rights of life, liberty, and property, rights of the accused in criminal cases, and excessive bail, fines, and punishments, and their final project takes them every step of the way from crime to mock trial."

Lt. Wild adds, "What we teach here is what we learn as a police officer. The kids are very interested in what they see on TV with shows like CSI and Criminal Minds, but we teach them that you can't



solve a crime in 45 minutes. Sometimes it takes years."

Sloan Smith is a graduate of the CHARIHotech Criminal Justice program, now in her freshman year at Salve Regina, majoring in Administration of Justice. A daughter of a police officer she said, "I didn't even know this program was an option, but once I did, I enrolled for my sophomore, junior, and senior years." Smith agrees with Lt. Wild's comments about television shows. "Everyone has an interest in those shows; they have a big influence on us wanting to go for this ca-

reer, but people need to know they are not completely real. What's real is what the CHARIHOTech program is all about."

Lt. Wild strives to make this program as "real" as possible with ongoing guest speakers from the profession and out of classroom experiences that include trips to the Lizzie Borden House("to see a real crime scene"), the Adult Correctional Institution, Superior Court, and more.

"And we competed at Skills USA, a national competition for students preparing for careers in criminal justice. We've gone to the national competition for five years and won the gold or silver medal four out of those five years among 40 teams from all over the country."

Sloan Smith adds, "It was such an honor to place second nationally last year. Now my younger sister in 8th grade is applying for the same program."

If you or someone in your family has interest in this program, or any of the other CHARIHOTech disciplines, apply online now. www.charihotech.k12.ri.us/ctc or call Director, Gerald Auth at (401) 364-6869. Deadline is February 15th.

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3. **Will transportation be provided to CHARIHOTech if I live out of district?** Yes, if you live in one of the towns listed above, transportation will be provided at no cost.
4. **What programs do you offer?** We offer 22 programs at CHARIHOTech. Visit www.chariho.k12.ri.us/ctc for a full listing of programs or for a video overview of our programs.
5. **The high school in my town already has a career & technical program, can I still apply to CHARIHOTech?** Yes, you are still able to pursue a CHARIHOTech program.



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CHARIHO tech

8 Things to consider when choosing a high school



Planning ahead for the future often involves having a strong educational foundation upon which a secure and financially rewarding career can be built. While many students and families give ample thought to where they will attend college, taking such an approach to high school can be beneficial as well.

High school is a critical time in a child's life. Many students simply attend their local public high schools, even if that school may not be the best fit for the student. It behooves families to investigate other possibilities they have to ensure teenagers end up in the right academic environment during high school.

Public schools, private/religious institutions and specialty and vocational schools may have different assets that set them apart. Therefore, students and their parents can look at various factors to

determine which school will present them with the right environment and tools for success.

1. Identify needs and wants. Have a frank discussion as a family regarding what the student is looking to get out of the high school experience, as well as which settings help him or her learn the best.

2. Look at programs offered. Schools vary in their offerings. Comprehensive high schools offer a smorgasbord of courses to appeal to as many students as possible. Magnet or specialty schools may have specialized focuses, such as STEM, communications, business, or art.

3. How much college prep is desired? While most schools offer advanced placement courses that can translate into college credit, some offer

specialty tracks that enable high school students to earn a high school diploma and associates degree concurrently.

4. Check out campus size. The number of students on campus and teacher-to-student ratio can affect how some students learn. Social kids may like big schools, while an intimate setting may bring others out of their shells.

5. Consider religious affiliations. Many families like a faith-based program, and religious schools often blend faith into their curriculum.

6. Pay attention to finances. Tuition costs can impact which school a student attends.

7. Map the school location. Decisions also can be based on how close a school may be. Long commutes can eat into extracurricular activities or family time.

8. What clubs and activities are offered? School decisions also can be based on the activities that help develop well-rounded students. Athletes may seek schools with strong sports programs, for example.

Students can explore all possibilities in their local areas and beyond when determining where to attend high school.

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How to make online learning work for you

(BPT) - Many students juggle work and family, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, which found that 62 percent of students work full- or part-time, and 29 percent have at least one dependent. Today's college students are just as likely to be moms and dads themselves, full-time and part-time employees or members of the U.S. armed forces. Needing flexibility and variety in course offerings, more students are turning to online learning to design a path that fits their lifestyle.

As a result, online learning is seeing significant growth. A recent study found more than 6 million students take online courses across the U.S., and that number continues to rise. For example, at ASU Online, programs have grown significantly, with a 60 percent increase in freshman enrollment since fall 2016 to more than 35,000 students in over 175 undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

The following are some things you might not know about online learning:

1. Each learner is unique

"We work diligently to lay the right groundwork for each student at a personal and individual level because we know there is no silver bullet to student success," said Leah Lommel, chief operating officer of ASU Online. "Each learner is unique - what works for one may not work for another. This reality requires a tireless commitment to innovation on the part of higher education."

2. Higher education leads to career success

Access to higher education remains the best pathway to career success, directly impacting employment opportunities and wages. The Center on Education and the Workforce found that bachelor's degree holders earn 31 percent more than workers with an associate's degree and 74 percent more than those with a high school diploma. Further, emerging technologies and the changing nature of industries have created a demand for new types of skilled workers.

3. Flexibility is key

Higher ed programs need to be flexible and adaptable, allowing students to study during the hours - or minutes - that fit their schedules. With online programs, students can gain practical knowledge



throughout their program that can be immediately applied on the job, making them even more valuable in their current roles. As online programs continue to expand, students are more closely able to map coursework to their desired field of work.

4. Support structure is essential

Universities are discovering that online learning can be just as effective as face-to-face learning. However, support and guidance are essential to success. From strong faculty support to success coaches and career advisors, universities providing high-touch student services throughout a student's journey see the best outcomes.

For students stepping back into school after many years, support and encouragement are key. Coaches are a lifeline as students juggle life with studying and coursework. Coaches offer support, help students overcome obstacles and connect them to other campus resources.

Online learning allows universities to meet students where they are, academically and personally. Today's student is approaching education from a new standpoint, with different requirements and needs. The power of innovation in online learning means that each student can complete a degree in a way that was simply not possible before.

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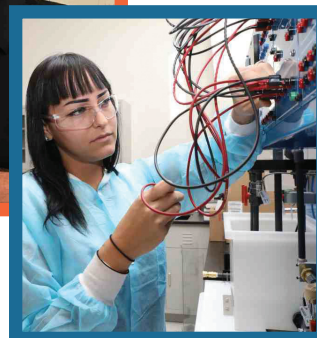
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New exchange program introduces young adults to corporate agriculture



Left to right: Jenny Heaton, Lisa Schmid and Colin Steen relax for a moment at Syngenta Seeds, Inc., in Minnetonka, Minnesota.

(BPT) - For years, the International Farm Youth Exchange Association (IFYE) has offered young adults an opportunity to travel and learn about agriculture in a different country. Now, global agribusiness Syngenta is taking the program a step further by introducing a corporate component to the experience. This one-of-a-kind approach to agricultural education gives young adults the opportunity to job shadow in corporate settings as well as on farms - a practice that gives participants valuable industry insight as they prepare to enter into the workforce themselves.

Jenny Heaton, Syngenta head of people and organization development, decided to test this approach after first learning about IFYE at an agricultural diversity conference. She quickly saw the value in bringing the program into a corporate space and helped launch the pilot program in summer 2018.

The experience of a lifetime

The pilot was a success for Lisa Schmid, a German exchange student studying for her master's degree in agricultural studies. The Syngenta IFYE program provided a chance for her to learn more about American culture and see the diversity of careers in agriculture.

Growing up on a farm in Stendal, Germany, Schmid developed an early interest in agriculture. Her family also participated in IFYE when Schmid was young, hosting two students from the U.S. and one from Finland. Later, her brother joined the IFYE program and was an exchange student in Kansas. It was only a matter of time before Schmid took her turn to participate in the IFYE program, too.

Schmid had the traditional IFYE experience in South Dakota, where she stayed with three farm families. But her three-week stay in Minnesota was unique.

During her time in the North Star State, Schmid was introduced to human resource initiatives, such as leadership development programming and organizational design. She also met with a company representative who investigates prospective investment opportunities, and learned the science behind the seed industry. "I was able to learn about other aspects of agriculture while spending time with my Syngenta hosts. It was an amazing adventure that I'll always remember," says Schmid.

Expanding the pilot program into new territory

IFYE is not just about exploring how different places grow food and raise livestock. It's also about giving people the opportunity to learn more about global culture. IFYE is a unique experience because young adults have the chance to see agriculture from new perspectives - fresh outlooks that they can take back home with them and into their careers. That's why Syngenta and IFYE are excited to continue the success of this pilot and expand the program to send young Americans abroad.

"We look forward to growing this relationship and working with Syngenta to offer our participants new experiences that continue to add value to the exchange program," said Ken Gordon, executive director of IFYE.

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- Mark Fader, Head of School



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