

Aired: 27 January 2013

Video: Available for viewing.



RALEIGH--In a recent international assessment of students, a report showed the United States was behind several nations in math and science.

However, North Carolina out performed other U.S. states in math.

One organization, STEM For Kids based in Raleigh, is uniquely focusing at the grassroots level and is making engineering fun for elementary-age students by offering weekly camps, in-school workshops, field-trips and after-school programs.

"We have a program where the kids register for our camps and we actually give back to the schools. So last quarter we had 13 schools that benefited from those donations from STEM for Kids," said STEM for KIDS founder and CEO, Moni Singh.

A rocket ship, on its way to the moon, can get up to almost 25,000 miles per hour to escape the Earth's atmosphere.

Even with heavy rain outside, the atmosphere didn't stop the STEM for Kids campers from shooting off into a new frontier of science, engineering, technology and math.

The camps focus on making science fun and it lets students like seven-year-old Mansi Goyal get out of the classroom and gravitate toward active learning.

"Yeah like actually testing on experiments, instead of just like predicting what will happen," said Goyal.

Singh said it's important to see the bigger picture of planting STEM in the minds of children, as curious minds are fertile grounds. "Having them experience these concepts, instead of putting it on a whiteboard, teaches them. It's more about making it hands-on, making it more inquiry-based and having them learn through experiences," she said.

These experiences are uniquely designed with what Singh calls the "Three C's," critical thinking, collaboration and communications.

STEM for Kids also has a mission to provide alternative recreational programs, which makes learning science more entertaining for students.

"You do lots of experiments because school you have to do lots of paperwork, which is a little more boring than I expected," said Goyal.

From exploring computer science, to launching rockets, the STEM for Kids camps lets students build upon what they learn in the classroom and the opportunities are endless.

The sky is the limit for nine-year-old Joseph Pisciotta, but he said he doesn't want to visit outer space any time soon. "You can't drink water without it coming out. You have to sleep laying down without straps and there is zero gravity," he said.

As these students gravitate towards studying STEM, they are launching into a successful future and beyond.

To find out more about STEM for Kids, visit the [website](#) or call (919) 297-8366.

Source: http://www.twcnews.com/archives/nc/triangle-sandhills/2013/01/27/students-shoot-off-into-new-frontier-at-stem-kids-camp-NC_683660.old.html

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