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"STEAM lab project based learning is fun and meaningful for students"
-Angi Bass

52nd ANNIVERSARY
1970-2022



NEWSLETTER

A Lower School Newsletter
from Harrells Christian Academy

February | 2022

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION THROUGH CHRISTIAN MOTIVATION

STEAM Lab Adds Hydroponics

The HCA STEAM Lab, sponsored by Smithfield, is growing (and that's no pun)! Recently, instructor Angi Bass chose to expand the STEAM curriculum to use an alternative "A" for agriculture. Traditionally, STEAM uses an interdisciplinary approach to learning that integrates science, technology, engineering, art, and math to engage students in the learning process. However, at HCA, located in the heart of an agricultural mecca, it is only natural to include the interdependent concepts of gardening and farming. The addition of a hydroponic grow station provides students with a year-round growing experience that broadens their curriculum and knowledge of their ecosystems.

Incorporation of agriculture in the STEAM curriculum affords the Lower School students a hands-on opportunity to learn about water and soil conservation and alternative farming practices. These are the real-life concepts that allow farmers to meet the demand of our ever-changing world. Students will gain understanding of how environmental conditions affect plant survival and growth, observe and summarize the distinct life cycle of seed plants, and explain the basic properties of soil composition for successful growth. The increasing knowledge of the interconnected relationships of plants and animals will allow students to infer the importance of nature and their food supply.

HCA has a unique environment that allows the learning experience to bridge all grades K-12. With the addition of hydroponics, students will now share the full active learning experience of farm to table providing lettuce and other vegetables for their cafeteria. Mrs. Bass's students will work with Middle and Upper School FFA students to grow plants from seedlings to mature crops for harvesting. In a collaborative effort, FFA and STEAM students will use the Harry Shaw Greenhouse to finish plants from the hydroponics lab onto our plates.



For Your Fridge

FEBRUARY

- 1** PTO MEETING
8:15am - Cafeteria
- 2** PINK NIGHT
4:00PM - Foundation Center
- 2** SENIOR NIGHT
6:30pm - Foundation Center
- 3** KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION
8:30pm
- 21** PRESIDENTS' DAY
No School

100 Days of Fun & Learning!



On Wednesday, January 26, the HCA Lower School halls and classrooms were filled with gray hair, canes, walkers, and lots of spunk as grades K-2 celebrated the much-loved 100th Day of School. To prepare for the festivities, students were encouraged to wear clothing that featured the number 100 or to dress like they were 100. Throughout the day, teachers and their students enjoyed various activities, all themed around the number 100.

In 2nd grade, students worked collaboratively to solve the Math Mystery: The Case of the 100 Missing Treats. Kindergarten classes made trail mix, and counted out 10 of each snack to make their treat. They also used finger paint to put 100 gumballs in a gumball machine, created a tower of 100 cups, made a number train to order numbers 1-100 on the carpet, sequenced the tens numbers from 10 to 100 by cutting and glueing them on a 100th Day paper, and went on a Hershey kiss hunt to find 100 kisses hiding around the room. As they found them, they placed them in the correct place on the hundreds chart.

By the end of the day, students were 100 times smarter and super excited to see what their teachers have in store for them during the spring semester at HCA!

