

## Our Mission

As a STEM-focus school we provide an interdisciplinary approach to learning that:

- fully engages students and develops literacy by integrating the sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM)
- fully integrates the arts across the curriculum

By using this approach to teaching and learning, we strive to increase the academic achievement of all students while simultaneously closing the achievement gap.

## Why STEM at Will Rogers

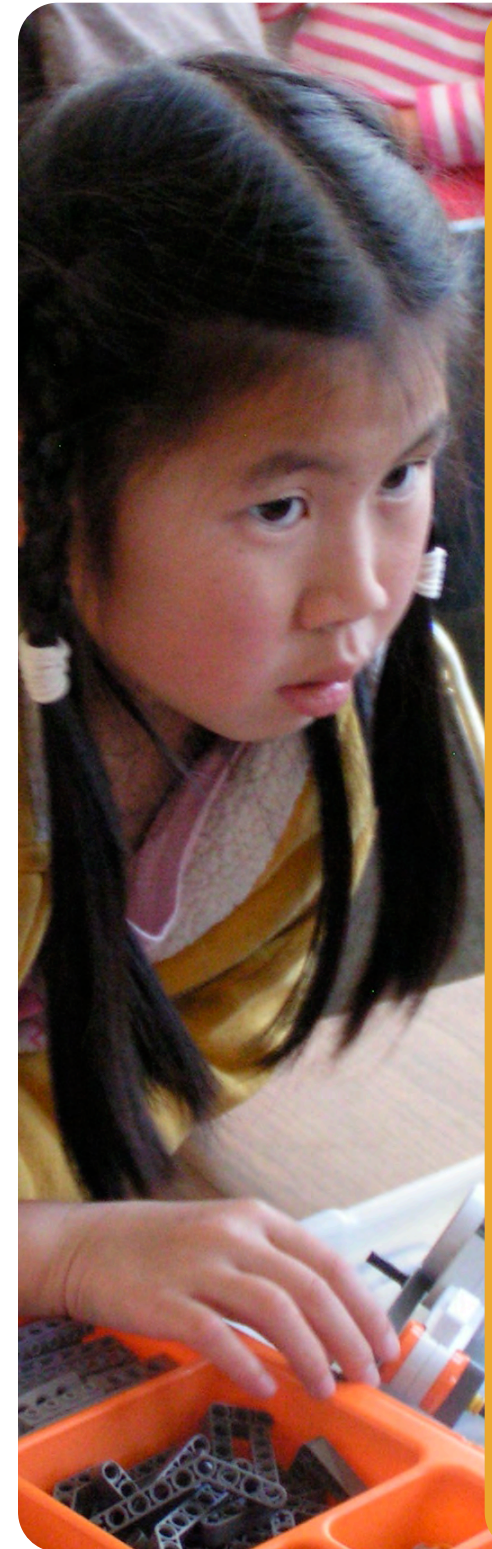
Historically, Will Rogers has been known for its innovative approach to teaching and learning, and once again is leading the way as the first elementary STEM-focus school in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

While the STEM movement is more commonly found at the secondary and university levels, we know elementary age students are ripe for this approach to learning as growing research shows it is important for students to learn science in an

experiential way using hands-on, inquiry-based learning.

The use of experimentation, observation, problem solving and journal keeping can have a powerful and positive effect on students' achievement in other subjects particularly mathematics, reading and language arts.

Our belief is that a good STEM curriculum benefits all students regardless of their future educational and career path.



**Will Rogers Learning Community**  
A STEM-focus school

## What STEM looks like at Will Rogers

Will Rogers is uniquely poised for success in implementing a STEM-based program. Will Rogers staff is deeply committed to the achievement of their students.

We have an in-house science specialist who meets regularly with each grade's team of teachers to co-construct and model standards-based lessons that integrate STEM into other curriculum areas.

The lessons keep students engaged in learning through the use of a hands-on and inquiry-based approach. Since mathematics is the foundation of competency in the other disciplines, we have put it squarely in the center of school-wide professional development efforts.

With the help of Dr. Megan Franke, Professor and Chair of the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Angela Chan, UCLA doctoral student, the school has selected an integrated and inquiry-based approach to the teaching of mathematics.

Will Rogers provides school-wide access to cutting-edge technologies making learning more interactive,



engaging and collaborative for both teachers and students.

Multimedia resources such as interactive whiteboards, laptops, digital document cameras, and video streaming provide the necessary resources to support the effort.

Two model technology classrooms and a comprehensive computer lab and science lab extend the teachers' and students' repertoire of traditional tools to make learning more meaningful, linking our campus to the outside world.

## What are the next steps for STEM at Will Rogers

- Continue to expand current connections along the K-14 educational pathway.
- Continue to develop partnerships with STEM-related agencies and businesses.
- Create a summer institute around the STEM disciplines for students and teachers.
- Seek continued funding for a full time, dedicated science teacher.
- Provide parent involvement activities.
- Participate in Race to the Top (RTTP) grant opportunities.



## For more Information

For more information about STEM at Will Rogers, please contact our school office at:

310 452 2364

Additional information can be obtained at the Will Rogers STEM website:

[www.rogers.smmusd.org](http://www.rogers.smmusd.org)