

News from the field of the premiere DoD Youth STEM education program.

STARBASE High Sierra Celebrates its Grand Opening



On a recent morning in January, a class of Desert Heights Elementary School fifth graders got up close and personal with all kinds of large, bright red fire trucks at the fire station on the base near the Reno-Tahoe International Airport.

Emilia Naranjo was one of those students. When asked what she thought about her visit to the fire station on the way back to the program's dedicated classrooms, she said, "It was cool. I like the color red, and the fire trucks were really big, so it was very interesting to see them."

By the end of the program, Naranjo and her classmates will have met firefighters, pilots, and emergency management specialists. Each class of fifth graders comes to the base one day a week for five weeks through the program.

Tiffany Young is the STARBASE program director, and she said these opportunities are only a part of the entire learning experience for students.

"They have hands-on experiments, they can learn about STEM careers, and they have an opportunity to have a field trip within a field trip," Young said.

Back at the fire station, students were able to ask firefighters about their jobs and even walked through the cabs of two different fire trucks. Opportunities like the one to the fire station allow students to explore new career possibilities, especially for low-income students from schools like Desert Heights, where 100 percent of students are eligible for free and reduced lunch.

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"You can teach a student a lesson for a day, but if you teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives. -- Clay B. Bedford

(Continued from page 1.)

During their days on the base, students can also conduct hands-on experiments, which range from learning computer-aided design to coding small LEGO robots. Program leaders say the five-week program allows the class to develop multiple science and mathematics skills. Furthermore, STEM education early in students' careers can accelerate future skill-building in other topic areas like reading and problem-solving.

Even though the first class of fifth graders visited the base in August, the official opening ceremony for the program and its new building was held on Jan. 20.

Glenn Duncan Elementary School students were the first to complete the program, and their principal, Ryan Smith, was at the opening ceremony to celebrate. He said his students enjoyed their experience.

"They would just be so excited because all the learning was hands-on. They got to participate in experiments, collaborate with each other. They got a chance to bond with their teachers," he shared.

Smith said Glenn Duncan students rarely leave their neighborhoods, and their classes at the base were the first field trips they had been on since the pandemic hit. So far, 15 Washoe County School District schools have sent students to the program.

Maj. Gen. Ondra Berry, adjutant general of the Nevada National Guard, said teaching students valuable STEM skills not only helps their academic success but also boosts America's national security by building a skilled, diverse workforce.

"If you can do science, technology, engineering and math, it catapults you; it accelerates you; it gives you a better understanding of the world and the workforce we need today," Berry said. "And even in the military, when you have those capabilities, it helps further your ability to integrate and help us to win our nation's wars."

Berry and Young said they are looking to extend the program to middle and high school students to continue fostering STEM growth and interest.

Watch a video of the grand opening [here!](#)



Guam Declares October as STARBASE Month

STARBASE Guam received Proclamation 2022-83, which officially declares the month of October 2022 as STARBASE Month. The signing took place on October 26, 2022 at The Office of the Governor in Hagatna, Guam at 9:30am, just days after the new program celebrated the one-year anniversary of opening their doors to students. After serving its first cohort in October of 2021, the proclamation served as a milestone for the organization that recognized its accomplishments and triumphs throughout its first year of operation. The team was honored to receive the proclamation and share it with their Guam National Guard leaders and supporters of the program. Check out the video [here!](#)



Save the Date | 2023 STARBASE Workshop



This year's in-person workshop will be August 2nd-3rd. Plans are in the works, and further information about location will be provided as soon as it's available. Please protect these days and necessary travel days on your calendar!

Sharing STEM



STARBASE Hanscom has long focused on building children's confidence in STEM fields. Now Bridgewater State University students are bringing the learning to new heights.

Twenty education majors recently helped teach science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to fifth-grade English language learners while improving their own skills as budding teachers.

"I love the hands-on aspects and learning alongside the kids," said Marissa Exama, class of 2024 and an early childhood education and English major from Gloucester. "I just wanted to step out of my comfort zone."

The experience, which will involve a second group of students next summer, is funded by a \$300,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Students took two free courses about teaching English language learners and incorporating STEM topics such as viscosity, force, motion, and coding in lessons. Then, they used their new skills during weeklong internships at STARBASE.

"They've blown us away with their enthusiasm and passion for this," said Dr. Jeanne Carey Ingle, an elementary and early childhood education professor coordinating the program with colleague Nicole Glen.

As part of the NSF grant, Ingle and Glen are researching how to prepare future educators to teach STEM to students who are not native English speakers.

"There are a lot of opportunities to do STEM where language doesn't need to be a barrier," Dr. Glen said.

In one such activity, children from Boston's Josiah Quincy Elementary School excitedly watched as a robot they coded drove on an oval track. When it veered off course, BSU students helped the children discover why the robot failed.

"They bring inquisitiveness and energy, and I think they bring a fresh perspective," Dr. Peter Holden, director of STARBASE Academy, said of involving Bridgewater students.

Julia Sullivan, class of 2023 and an elementary education and English major from Cambridge, started with minimal STEM experience. Now, she sees it as an integral part of teaching.

"The kids really like it and thrive off learning it," she said. "I'm learning lots of different strategies."

Grace Martel, class of 2023, who is from Uxbridge and aspires to become a reading specialist, said the program prepared her for the diverse students she will serve during her career

"I think it was a really good learning experience," said Grace, who is majoring in early childhood education and psychology and minoring in special education. "It shows how Bridgewater wants to expose education majors to different experiences we might face in the field."



(Source: <https://www.bridgew.edu/stories/2022/sharing-stem>)

DoD STARBASE National Assessment is Live!

What does that mean for you?



Fifth Theory
Digital Assessments & Surveys

Each year, sites are required to complete the national assessment provided by Fifth Theory as one aspect of program compliance in accordance with DoDI 1025.07. Fifth theory has sent program directors an email explaining in detail the process and protocol of administering the test. Below are a few reminders:

Student Assessment

- » The testing period began on January 23, 2023 and will close on May 26, 2023.
- » At least one participating class should be chosen as the testing group. Sites can have more classes take the test, but it is not required.
- » Deliver the pre-test and post-test to the same cohort of students. The pre-test should be given on their first day of STARBASE, and the post-test should be given on the last participation day of the program.
- » Demographic makeup of any class that completes the test will also be submitted to fifth theory. Note, that this does not take the place of your individual programs collecting data for each participating academy, sites should continue to gather and maintain data on all participants for their files.

Teacher Survey

- » The teacher survey should be completed by each participating classroom teacher on the fifth and final day of the program. This survey is independent of the student assessment and should not solely be completed by one classroom teacher annually.

Please refer to the email sent in mid-January by Fifth Theory for additional information and links. You can also reach out to The SPECTRUM Group or Fifth Theory if you have additional questions or concerns.

STARBASE Directors Brown Bag Series

As you may already know, a Directors Launch Training was developed for new STARBASE directors in 2022. After conducting two sessions of this in-person training, it is clear from the feedback that this information would be beneficial for all directors! To reach the widest audience possible, please consider joining us at one or all of the remaining virtual brown bag sessions below. Look for an email with registration information for upcoming sessions!



Thursday, March 23rd @ 1pm ET

All Things Digital: STARBASE-U and more!

Thursday, May 25th @ 1pm ET

Resource Management Part 2: Fiscal

Thursday, May 11th @ 1pm ET

Resource Management Part 1: Property

TBD

Reporting and Data Collection Requirements

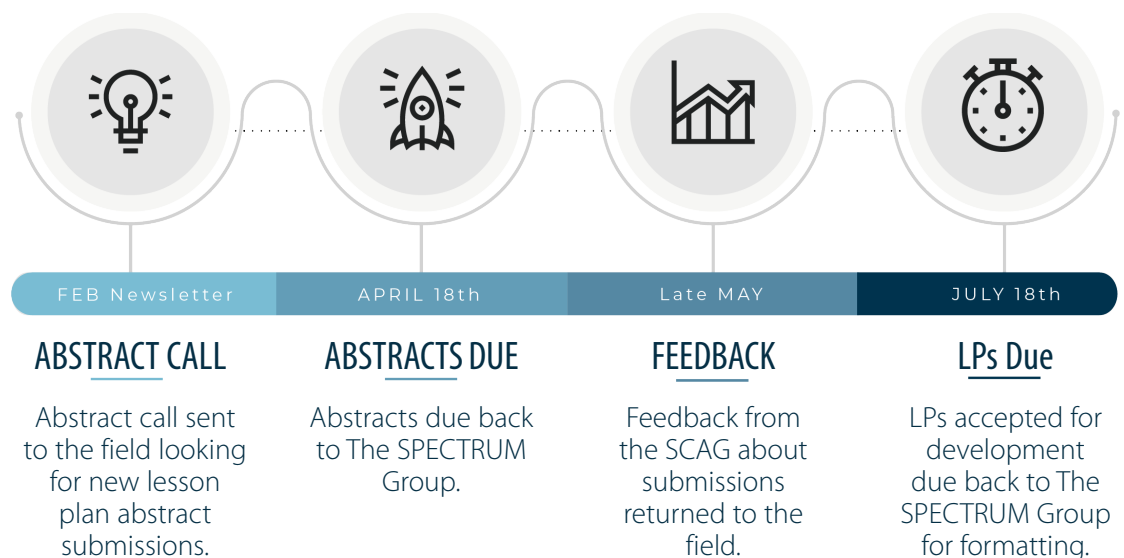
Curriculum Abstract Data Call

The STARBASE Curriculum Advisory Group (SCAG) is soliciting your input for new lesson plans to be included in the approved curriculum for the DoD STARBASE Program.

This is an opportunity for you to showcase lessons that you may have utilized in summer programs, and that you would like to see become part of the approved curriculum of the STARBASE Program.

Using the form available on STARBASE-U in the STARBASE News course, please submit your proposed abstract no later than Tuesday, April 18th, 2023 to email@dodstarbase.org. The SCAG will review your abstract submission and notify you that your idea has been accepted to be developed into an approved lesson plan in late May 2023. Further dates will be provided throughout the process.

The SCAG is excited to review your ideas. Thank you in advance for your work on this endeavor to expand and keep the STARBASE Curriculum fresh.



A Call for Participation

Throughout the year, this newsletter will continue to spotlight the achievements, partnerships, and tips of the participants of the DoD STARBASE program. Please share your achievements, success stories, and helpful tips with us at email@dodstarbase.org.