

# Westlake City Schools

## News Release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### WESTLAKE EARNS STATE STEM GRANT

Westlake City Schools will receive more than a half a million dollars in state grant money as one of nine K-8 STEM Programs of Excellence. Westlake earned the highest score on its proposal, which will initially serve about 675 middle school students in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

“We are thrilled that this grant will greatly complement our efforts to partner with local business and higher education institutions to advance student learning,” said Westlake Superintendent Dr. Daniel J. Keenan Jr. “To achieve excellence, we realize we need to prepare our students for their future not our past. The paradigm of students learning through engineering, design and scientific inquiry is fitting as we have moved from the information age to the conceptual age. This grant will set up the framework to interweave science, technology and math so our students can solve real-world problems.”

The STEM grants, through the Ohio Board of Regents/Ohio Partnership for Continued Learning, were announced Thursday. Westlake is the only Northeast Ohio school district to earn a Program of Excellence award and will gain \$547,054.96.

Westlake will use the grant for curriculum materials and technology, including robotics, computers, LCD projectors, immediate response remote devices and TI calculators, among other items, to place technology directly in the hands of all seventh- and eighth-grade students.

The grant also will support teacher professional development to realign the curriculum across the seventh and eighth grades into scientific inquiry- and project-based design. Teachers will attend workshops,

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**Hilliard  
Elementary School**  
24365 Hilliard Blvd.  
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Elementary School**  
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**Lee Burneson  
Middle School**  
2240 Dover Center Road  
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**Parkside  
Intermediate School**  
24525 Hilliard Blvd.  
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High School**  
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seminars and a Summer Institute to increase their own knowledge and skills, and then create the interest and enthusiasm in students.

Westlake Academic Services Director Pam Griebel said the program will increase academic rigor and incorporate other national standards, including the National Research Council and the National Council of Teachers of Math. This realigned curriculum will serve as a platform for further integration beyond science, technology and math for other grades in the district.

Through distance learning and field trips, student design teams will work with higher education and business partners to identify problems and then formulate solutions that encompass math, science and technology. All students will participate in the program. Students will be exposed to challenging materials and applications tailored to their individual learning styles, experiences and capabilities.

Westlake will share its STEM initiative with other Ohio districts through presentations at state conferences and regional meetings.

“The Westlake City School district, as a lighthouse STEM district in Northeast Ohio, will seek to partner with other school districts to share curriculum, projects and training opportunities on site and via distance learning technology,” Griebel said.

Westlake’s higher education partners are Lorain County Community College, the Akron Global Polymer Academy at The University of Akron and Cleveland State University. Other education partners are the Ohio Technology Education Association and the SMART Consortium.

Business partners are Energizer Battery Manufacturing Inc., GLIDE (Great Lakes Innovation and Development Enterprise), Heery International Inc., Hyland Software, John Thomas Educational Consulting Group, Lakewood Hospital/Cleveland Clinic, Leadership Lorain County, MAGNET (the Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network), Metcalf & Eddy of Ohio Inc., Polymer Diagnostics Inc., R.E. Warner & Associates Inc. and Z-Space Technologies Inc.

The STEM Subcommittee of the Partnership for Continued Learning was established by HB 119 in June 2007 and is part of Ohio’s Third Frontier Project. The educational objective of the partnership is to create an aligned education system that creates students who are innovators and inventors, self-reliant and logical thinkers and technologically proficient problem solvers. STEM programs emphasize personalized learning and teamwork skills that will expose students to advanced mathematical and technical scientific concepts within and outside of the classroom.

For more information visit the STEM web site at

<http://www.pcl.ohio.gov/>

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