

SmartLab™

Learning's different here...

Welcome to the Elementary SmartLab™.



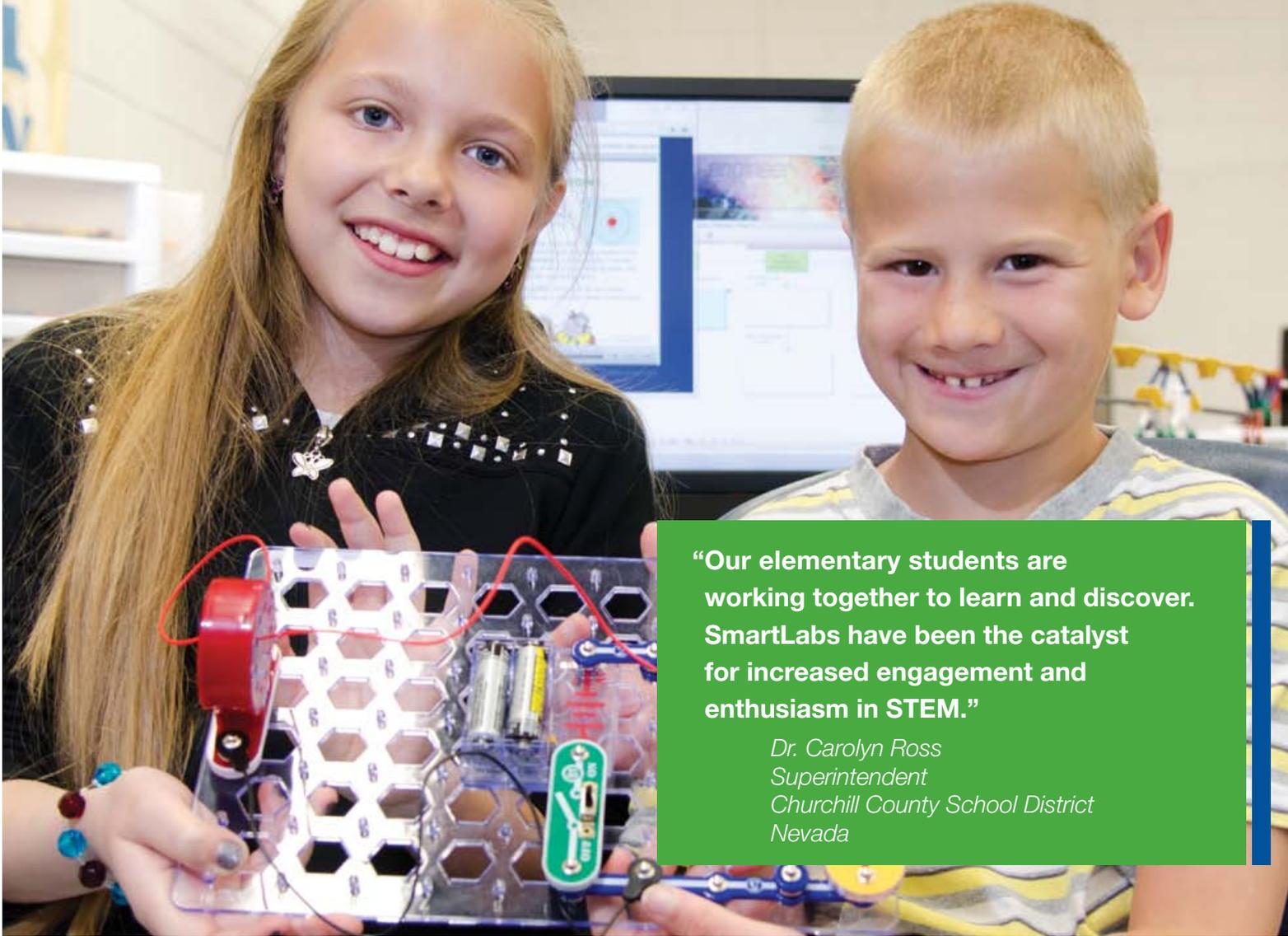
Jasmine and Hannah are exploring platonic solids. Jasmine's sister is learning similar concepts in 9th grade geometry!



Taylor and Brittney are using graphics software to create a portrait of their home state.



Josh and Trevor are learning to use scientific sensors and software. Then they're going to use sound waves to discover how bats hunt at night!



“Our elementary students are working together to learn and discover. SmartLabs have been the catalyst for increased engagement and enthusiasm in STEM.”

*Dr. Carolyn Ross
Superintendent
Churchill County School District
Nevada*

What's a SmartLab?

Creative Learning Systems welcomes you, your students, and teachers to a remarkable new world of learning. We call it a SmartLab.

It's not just a computer lab. It's not just a classroom. It's a whole new way of approaching education, where everything from the furniture and technology, to the curriculum and assessment tools work together to engage elementary school learners.

Imagine students of all abilities using the latest technology to create projects that fascinate and capture their attention, engaging them to inquire, explain, synthesize, and produce authentic work. Imagine a program that provides an integrated, hands-on approach to STEM education. Imagine a curriculum designed to encourage problem solving and exploratory learning while reinforcing academic topics in a multidisciplinary context.

A Flexible Program for Today's Young Learners

Today's learners are ready to progress beyond basic computer skills to applied technology as early as the second and third grades. That's why we've introduced the Elementary SmartLab, which features the same learning approach that has proven effective for over 25 years in secondary schools across the country.

The SmartLab model is easily adaptable to elementary school schedules and needs. SmartLabs can be designed for a wide range of class sizes. Models of usage can include scheduling in a specials rotation, a resource center to support technology-enabled work for general curriculum, and a system to enhance special ed and gifted and talented programs. We can even design a SmartLab to support traditional one-to-one computer lab activities in addition to collaborative, project-based work.

In a SmartLab, students use applied technology to design projects, test their ideas, create ePortfolios, and give presentations on what they've learned. The Elementary SmartLab features guided rotational engagements for upper elementary grades with whole-class learning engagements for younger learners. The program articulates with middle school SmartLab programs for a seamless graduation to the secondary level.

An Integrated Approach to STEM

With engaging content and hands-on learning, SmartLabs help lay the foundation for academic success. SmartLabs provide critical focus for elementary students in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). SmartLab projects also emphasize technology for art, providing a well-rounded educational experience and engaging more learners. Connections with social studies and language arts themes provide a true multidisciplinary learning experience.

SmartLabs feature an integrated approach to STEM that students find both challenging and engaging. Academic content is explored through inquiry-based projects using applied technology. While exploring these topics, students begin to develop the 21st century skills necessary to apply their knowledge — skills such as critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration and communication, time management, and self-direction.



“It’s like a gymnasium for critical thinking.”

*Tom Delgado
Principal
School District 27J
Colorado*

“Of all the investments we make in educational technology, the SmartLab has been the most effective in actually putting technology in the hands of our students.”

*Dr. Velma Villegas
Superintendent, Southwest Independent School District
Superintendent of the Year - Texas Computer Education Association*

A System That Works for You

SmartLabs come with integrated, project-based curriculum packages that are aligned with National and Common Core State Standards. The SmartLab model utilizes technology and the interactive stations as tools to work within the curriculum, so teachers can focus on facilitating learning.

Learning engagements are guided by Creative Learning Systems' exclusive Liftoff Challenge™ curriculum, which guides learning while encouraging students to shape projects around their own interests.

Through the integrated ePortfolio system, students create meaningful objectives and document their learning through daily journaling. Learners create and share engaging presentations about their projects using the latest technology. The SmartLab ePortfolio system empowers students to take ownership of their learning and provides authentic assessment of project-based work. With its emphasis on reading and writing for content, the SmartLab supports literacy efforts as it builds critical communication skills.

Content areas include:

- Mechanics and Structures
- Computer Graphics
- Science and Data Acquisition
- Publishing and Multimedia
- Alternative and Renewable Energy
- Robotics and Control Technology
- Circuitry



Preparing for the Future

The elementary school years are prime time for developing an early interest in STEM, and a solid foundation in 21st century learning skills. When young learners have the opportunity to use technology in authentic, engaging projects, the knowledge they gain and the skills they develop help them in every part of their academic careers.

In the SmartLab, students will:

- Engage in fun, challenging, relevant projects using real-world technologies to explore academic content in STEM, social studies, English, and art
- Build reading and writing skills through daily journaling, creating project portfolios, and reading-for-content
- Develop ePortfolios documenting their project work and learning progress
- Create and give project presentations, fostering communication skills and building confidence
- Benefit from individualized learning and authentic assessment
- Begin to develop 21st century skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, time management, and self-assessment



“We must prepare all students to be proficient in STEM subjects. And we must inspire all students to learn STEM and, in the process, motivate many of them to pursue STEM careers.”

*President's Council of Advisors on
Science and Technology
- September, 2010*



“District administrators asked us to create a SmartLab solution focused on the unique needs of elementary school students. The Elementary SmartLabs are the direct result of input from our school partners and ongoing communications with teachers and district leaders.”

*Matt Dickstein
CEO, Creative Learning Systems*

What's the Next Step?

We invite you to talk with our educational design consultants, arrange a personal visit to a SmartLab in your area, or to simply begin by visiting our web site at www.creativelearningsystems.com. Together, we'll develop a SmartLab solution that will launch your students on a path of discovery, learning, and success.

Since creating the first technology lab in a U.S. school in 1987, we've designed and built hundreds of SmartLabs across the country. Every one is a unique learning solution designed to meet the needs of each school partner and their learning community. It's a thorough and collaborative process tailored to your academic goals, model of usage, and of course, budget.

Talk with one of our educational design consultants to get a custom quote and even explore funding options to make the classroom of the 21st century a reality for your school.

Creative Learning Systems
800.458.2880 www.creativelearningsystems.com



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