

NEWS RELEASE
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From woeful to ‘whoa!’

Lafayette, La., middle school converts to STEM focus

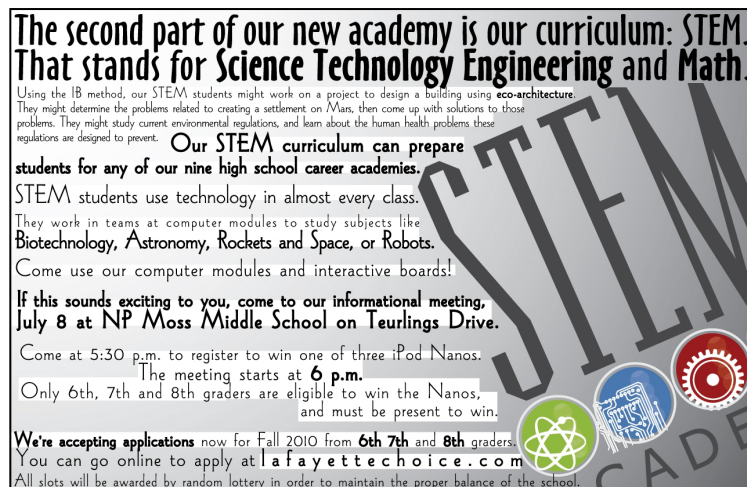
LAFAYETTE, La. – Amid fears their middle school might soon be closed due to academic woes realized under the No Child Left Behind mandate, community members near N.P. Moss Middle School in Lafayette, Louisiana, appealed for a change.

Their wish was granted when Moss was transformed this summer into the STEM Academy at N.P. Moss Middle School. The school also is applying to become an International Baccalaureate candidate school. Even more impressive than the new name, extensive curriculum changes were implemented to transform the previously lowly regarded school into one of the most attractive magnet schools in the district.

The STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) portion of the academy is delivered in six Pitsco Education programs focused on science, pre-algebra, and technology.

“With the STEM focus, what we’re hoping to do is have students developing competitively and for a global economy,” said Principal Ken Douet. “Once they get an idea of what exists in the world or work, then from the middle school they go to high school where we have additional academies. We prepare the middle school students with a complete variety of technologies and basic curriculum, and then they select their five-year plan.”

In Louisiana, students need to begin thinking about a career pathway in the eighth grade so they can get on the correct track during high school. Pitsco curriculum incorporates career



The second part of our new academy is our curriculum: STEM. That stands for Science Technology Engineering and Math.

Using the IB method, our STEM students might work on a project to design a building using eco-architecture. They might determine the problems related to creating a settlement on Mars, then come up with solutions to those problems. They might study current environmental regulations, and learn about the human health problems these regulations are designed to prevent.

Our STEM curriculum can prepare students for any of our nine high school career academies.

STEM students use technology in almost every class. They work in teams at computer modules to study subjects like Biotechnology, Astronomy, Rockets and Space, or Robots. Come use our computer modules and interactive boards!

If this sounds exciting to you, come to our informational meeting, July 8 at NP Moss Middle School on Teurlings Drive.

Come at 5:30 p.m. to register to win one of three iPod Nanos. The meeting starts at **6 p.m.** Only 6th, 7th and 8th graders are eligible to win the Nanos, and must be present to win.

We're accepting applications now for Fall 2010 from 6th 7th and 8th graders. You can go online to apply at lafayettechoice.com. All slots will be awarded by random lottery in order to maintain the proper balance of the school.

exploration and real-world material and equipment in its Modules. “Pitsco has those career clusters, and for us here in Louisiana, the career clusters drive the five-year plan,” Douet said.

In addition to emphasizing careers, the STEM focus is centered on hands-on, exploratory learning in topics such as biotechnology, astronomy, animation, robots, and space.

“It’s a terrific hands-on way to learn and really internalize everything we’ve been trying to do,” Douet said. “This way, the students are actually using it, developing it, learning the vocabulary.”

The new Thibodeaux Technical High School in the Lafayette school district also features Algebra and Physical Science labs from Pitsco Education.

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Pitsco Education Curriculum is the leading provider of age-appropriate, student-centered K-12 learning solutions. Our standards-based K-12 curriculum promotes student success through positive and challenging learning experiences. Our curriculum combines relevant hands-on activities and a team-based, student-directed learning environment to deliver core courses and career skills in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).