

At New London Local Schools, we understand the importance of comprehensive STEM programs in our schools that build our students' creativity, collaboration and problem-solving skills through hands-on activities and beneficial course offerings. As a district, it is our priority to ensure our students have the best possible opportunities available to them.

The New London Local School District is a proud founding member of the Northern Ohio Rural STEM Collaborative, a non-profit organization of rural school districts and educational partners in northern Ohio that partner together to continue the efforts of the Rural STEM Collaborative. Our vision is to work collaboratively with other rural districts to build a K-12 STEM pipeline that produces innovative and creative individuals who are employable in STEM fields.

At the elementary level, our students participate in the Makerspace program, which helps them learn using both their minds and their hands. They have also worked on countless other STEM projects, from planning an ecosystem to sustain organisms to designing and building a pendulum wrecking ball.

To better serve our middle school students, we hired a full-time STEM teacher this school year and offered three middle school gateway Career and Technical Education courses, including the newly added Design and Modeling pathway.

For our high school students, this was the first year we offered the Engineering pathway — along with several other STEM pathways — and next year, we plan to build the Engineering pathway out even further with one course each year.

Beyond just our programs, we are also expanding our STEM offerings through new technology purchased using grant funds, like a Glowforge laser cutter, which will be used in our 6-12 technology courses, and a new Flashforge 3D printer that will allow our students to create 3D models faster. Additionally, we have plans to purchase vex robots, which will expand our robotics program and hopefully make it possible for us to create a robotics team next year.

As a district, our goal is to empower our students to solve real-world problems and improve their communities by utilizing the beneficial STEM opportunities we provide. We will continue to grow these educational offerings and provide new technology to our students to help prepare them for meaningful careers after graduation.

Brad Romano, Superintendent  
New London Local Schools