The foundation of the STEM program at Evoline C. West elementary school is Project Based Learning, which is teacher and student created. These lessons coincide with current units of study for science, math, and social studies in grades K-5. Teachers and students use the Engineering Design Model in each PBL. We are most proud that each PBL unit is composed of a social action component where students are pushed to think critically to determine how their project can make a difference and create real change.

Our MIST program (Media, Instructional Technology, STEM, Teacher) is a unique framework that we implemented to grow our students in STEM. Through this program, we give students more hands-on time to work on their STEM projects and more resources for STEM instruction. We use the Media Center for student conducted research. The Instructional Technology class is where students use digital tools to communicate learning in the project presentations to share mastery of content and enhance the demonstration of knowledge. In the STEM Lab, students conduct labs, engineer and design solutions to problems, and grow in science content knowledge. These three areas, along with classroom teachers, work collaboratively to make strong connections for students and bring cohesiveness to content for learners.

Our 5th grade students serve our younger students as STEM ambassadors. This gives them the opportunity to act as role models in the school while educating our Kindergarteners and building their knowledge base for STEM. The ambassadors plan with the STEM coordinator using Kindergarten standards and current scope and sequencing. The engineering design model is included in each lesson. The 5th grade students are selected based on teacher recommendation, Milestones math scores, and positive behavior. This leadership opportunity is a great way for them to share their passion for STEM and reward them for making great choices both academically and behaviorally.

Evoline C. West has a strong partnership with the NeoMedia Group DayDreamer Academy. This program allows students and teachers to work with graphic designers and STEM experts to engage in a STEM graphic novel curriculum. In this program, students become STEM agents, create a custom 30-page comic that ties into their current PBL, and are enrolled in the STEM agency graduation program. NeoMedia Group are involved by assisting teachers with project ideas and development on a regular basis. They provide a variety of resources and professional development opportunities for teachers. Fifth grade students used the GOSA tiny grant funding to work with the graphic designs as they create a video gaming system to share their knowledge on sustainability and energy efficiency.

For more information regarding Evoline C. West Elementary School please contact Jennifer Burton at burtonjw@fultonschools.org