

Hey Parents!

What is technology and engineering education anyway?

Technology and engineering education study the human-made world and help students develop a deep understanding of technology and its place within a wide range of contexts—local and global, cultural, ethical, environmental, political, and economic. This knowledge is applied to practical projects, teaching skills important for all students and enabling them to make the most of opportunities that arise in an increasingly technologically engaged society.

With technology and engineering education, students get to problem solve, design, and innovate while being presented with rich and varied experiences. It aims for broad technological literacy within areas such as robotics, electronics, biotechnologies, and much more. Students are encouraged to show initiative, be innovative and creative, learn independently, and take responsibility. They learn teamwork and communication skills as well as the value of contributing to the community both socially and economically.

Why should my student be technologically literate?

In the coming century, our students will be making decisions about technologies that we have not even begun to dream of. Students need experiences in laboratory classrooms that allow them to apply practical problem-solving skills to real-world situations.

Technology and engineering education has evolved into a subject area that prepares students for careers that may relate to medical, agricultural, engineering, energy/power, communication, transportation, manufacturing, and construction areas, among others.

What kinds of real-world problems do technology and engineering students work on?

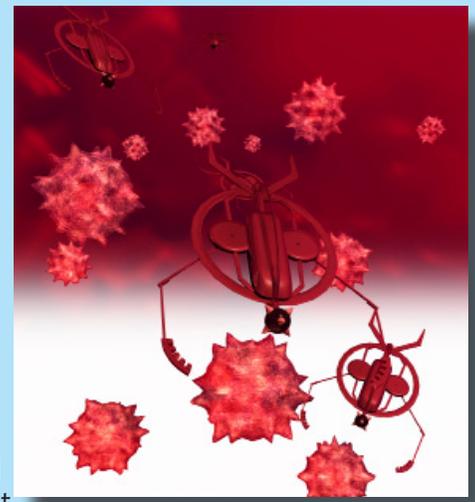


Technology and engineering students tackle problems such as how to create more sustainable options for transportation. Many students participate in competitions such as the SAE (Society of Automotive Engineering) Supermileage Competition, a yearly fuel efficiency competition in which teams compete to build the vehicle that uses the least amount of gas to go a specified distance. The 2008 winner in the high school division devised a vehicle that could travel 1716 miles per gallon!

Almost every aspect of our daily life—transportation, communication, the environment, manufacturing—uses technology and engineering. This technology is constantly evolving and is changing the way we look at things and how we do things. The best way to

meet this inevitable challenge is to encourage and support your student in becoming technologically literate. For more information about technology and engineering education, visit www.iteea.org or get in touch with your school's principal.

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Nanotechnology—just ONE really cool application of technology.



Launching the Space Shuttle is a feat of technology and engineering!