

January 27, 2020

Greetings~

Starbase is a school-year program, in which the Helena Public Schools and surrounding districts participate, that engages fifth graders in STEM activities for a week. After fifth grade, our students are no longer able to go to the program, thus limiting their interaction and exploration with Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Recently, the program was able expanded, creating an afterschool program - Starbase 2.0 - for 6th and 7th grade students. The program will serve the population at C.R. Anderson, Helena Middle School, and East Valley Middle School. As the program coordinator - and along with site coordinators Emily Currier, Sara Grotbo, and Carolyn Gates - I am looking for volunteer mentors to serve students interested in the program.

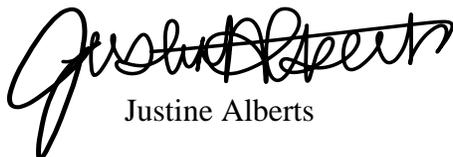
The purpose of Starbase 2.0 is to introduce as many students as possible to STEM concepts and activities as they continue their education. This program encourages students to set and achieve goals while engaging in inquiry-based curriculum with "hands-on, mind-on" experiential activities. Math is embedded throughout the curriculum, and students use metric measurement, estimation, calculation geometry, and data analysis to solve questions. Teamwork is stressed as they work together to explore, explain, elaborate, and evaluate concepts.

I am approaching local STEM-based firms, parents, college-aged students, and community members in the area to look for volunteer mentors for a few reasons. First, students like to see community members and outside professionals work with them to understand skill expectations outside of the school setting. Second, having volunteers from the community helps create a different atmosphere for students and creates stronger community bonds.

As a volunteer with the Starbase 2.0 program, you'll dedicate a few hours each week to students seeking guidance, STEM immersion, and connection. The start date for the Spring session of Starbase 2.0 is March 10, 2020, and the program will run for a duration of ten weeks. We will have one day at HMS and East Valley (Tuesdays) and one day at CRA (Thursdays) starting at 3:00pm and finishing work around 5:00pm. Students involved in the program will have applied and will be excited to participate. If you are interested in volunteering but can only commit to a fraction of what is listed on the second page, we can work with you on options to be involved.

As a volunteer you will be asked to attend a short training regarding the curriculum and interactions with students on **February 27th from 3:45-4:30**. If you are interested in and would like to know more about the program, please feel free to contact me via e-mail jalberts@helenaschools.org or by phone 406-231-2367.

Sincerely,



Justine Alberts

Starbase 2.0 Program Coordinator
jalberts@helenaschools.org



STEM Volunteer Mentors Needed

Who The STARBASE program is a DoD funded STEM educational experience for Helena area 5th grade students. The program is administered by the State of Montana.

A STARBASE 2.0 program has been established to serve Helena area middle school students and continue their exposure to STEM concepts. The 2.0 program can not function without volunteer mentors to work with the students.

The Spring session will be at C.R. Anderson Middle School, Helena Middle School, and East Valley Middle School.

Role STEM professionals, military members, and/or college students are needed to mentorteams of STARBASE 2.0 students. Typically, one mentor is assigned to a team of no more than four students. The mentor's role is to support students' engineering projects and to serve as role models. They are also expected to help facilitate team building and goal setting for the students.

Time Commitment

The HMS and Eaast Vally program will begin Tuesday, March 10, and will run every Tuesday from 3:00 - 5:00pm at the assigned location. The program will end May 12.

The CRA program will begin Tuesday, March 12, and will run every Thursday from 3:00 - 5:00pm. The program will end May 14.

Mentor training will be held Thursday, February 27, from 3:45 - 4:30pm in Sara Grothbo's room at HMS. This will be a mandatory training to introduce mentors to the curriculum and program philosophy.

The total time commitment is two hours per week if involved with one program and four hours per week if involved with both programs.

Contact

If you are interested in volunteering to serve as mentor or would like more information please contact the STABASE 2.0 Coordinator, Justine Alberts, at jalberts@helenaschools.org or 406-231-2367