

Family STEM Events

South Lakewood Elementary School, Jeffco Public Schools

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Throughout the 2024-2025 school year, the Digital Teacher-Librarian (DTL) and Family Engagement Liaison (FEL) at South Lakewood Elementary School in Jeffco Public Schools collaborated to host a monthly Family STEM challenge for a different grade level each month. Topics were chosen to supplement, reinforce, and enrich what students learned in class during science and ELA, specifically in their Into Reading units.

The goal of the monthly STEM challenge was to allow families an opportunity to create community, as well as give them space, time, and materials to work through the engineering design process as a family. Families received information to begin planning at home. Participating students received books related to the STEM challenge so they could delve deeper into the assigned topic and connect science/engineering to the real world. The PTA and Title I helped provide funding for these materials.



Each month, a diverse representation of families of all age groups, genders, and cultures participated in the STEM challenge. All South Lakewood families were invited to these no-cost events, which were advertised through weekly newsletters from classroom teachers and the principal, as well as Talking Points sent directly to grade-level families, and flyers with QR codes in students' Friday folders. Google Forms were used to sign up for the event and provide feedback, which families were asked to give after attending a STEM challenge. These events provided students with time to collaborate, think critically, and be creative. Best of all, students left with a newfound sense of wonder about the world around them and were excited to share their experience with their classmates.

After the event, one parent shared: "Thank you for giving me some time with my family to create, without my having to stress over supplies and prep. This was an unforeseen gift when I registered, but it was such a big one! Thanks for all that you do."