



**Cabarrus  
County  
Education  
Foundation**

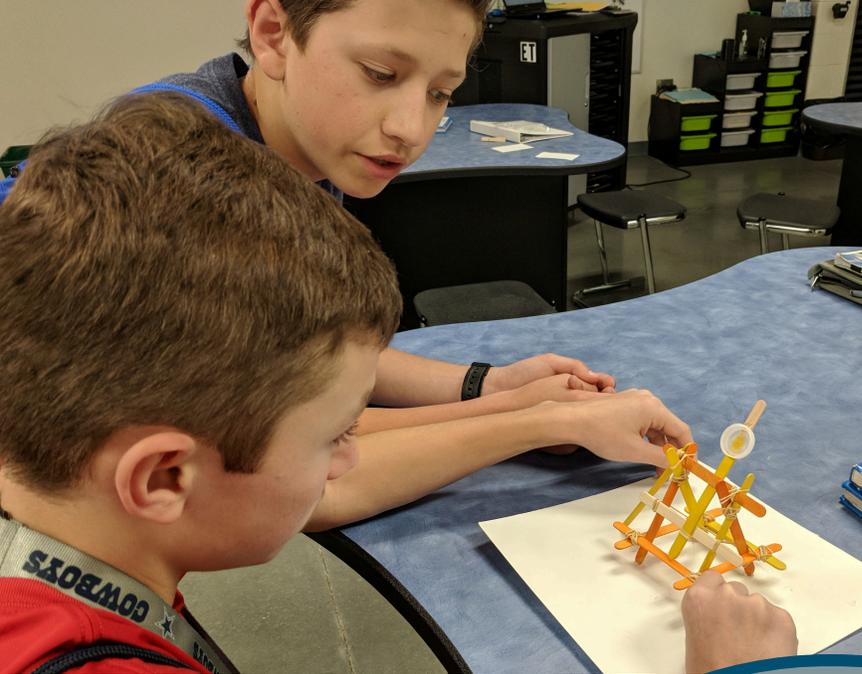


**OUR TEACHERS.**

**OUR STUDENTS.**

**OUR INVESTMENT.**

[WWW.CCEFNC.ORG](http://WWW.CCEFNC.ORG)





# CHAMPIONING FUTURE LEADERS

At CCEF, we're shaping tomorrow's workforce by fostering essential life skills and hands-on learning experiences. With strong ties to our vibrant business community, we empower students to thrive in an ever-changing world, ensuring they're equipped with the tools needed to seize every opportunity. Together, we're building a brighter future, one skill at a time!



**Transforming our Students for  
the World as it is Going to Be**





*Future Success Starts  
with a Love for Reading*

**READING** ✓  
**+MENTORING** ✓  

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**4 SUCCESS** ✓  
TM

## Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader

We want Cabarrus County children to **LOVE** to read because it sets them on a path to academic and life success.

Students who fall behind in the early grades often stay behind, creating opportunity and achievement gaps later in life. We must get this one right!

Today, in Cabarrus County Schools only 54% of students read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade, a critical milestone where students transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn". My FutureNC has identified that Cabarrus County needs to double from 34% to 73% the number 3rd-8th graders who score college-and-career ready scores (level 4 & 5) to meet future workforce needs.

Based on the latest research findings, our program strives to:



Encourage  
pleasure reading



Ensure students have books  
at home they enjoy reading



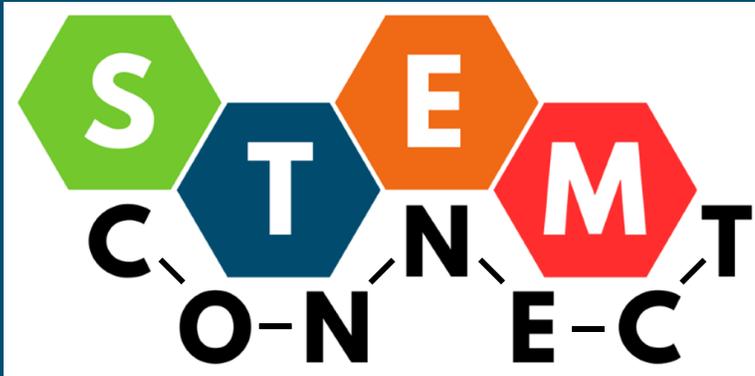
Have the skills needed  
for reading proficiently

Results from our program show that students are reading more outside of school, improving their reading proficiency levels, gaining confidence in the classroom, and emerging as leaders.

*"My students who participated in the program have begun to pick up longer books and not want to put them down. This has led to increased interest in others."*  
~CCS Teacher



*73% of 3rd graders who are behind never catch up and are 4 times more likely to drop out of school*

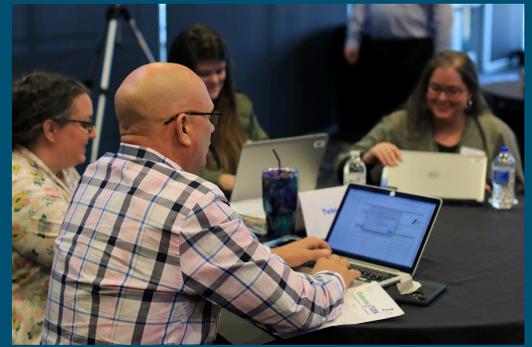


In today's rapidly evolving world, where advancements in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) drive progress and innovation, preparing our future workforce for the challenges ahead is of paramount importance.

Through hands-on projects and critical thinking exercises, our students learn problem-solving, teamwork, adaptability, and effective communication - skills that are vital in an ever-evolving job market and empower our graduates to become innovative, confident, and well-rounded professionals.

*STEM CONNECT empowers the next generation with the tools they need to thrive in a dynamic world through these initiatives:*

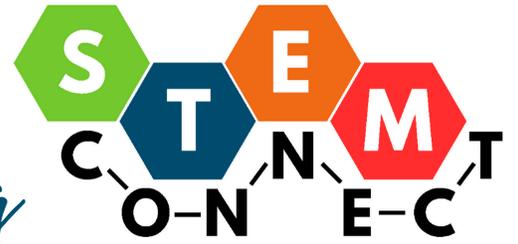
- EXPERIENCE STEM provides students with innovative experiential learning to gain critical life skills application in the context of various industry verticals.
- DO STEM ensures students have access to the equipment and resources needed for hands-on learning.
- TEACH STEM equips educators to inspire future generations of employees through immersion experiences with industry leaders.



The program's pinnacle is the STEM Combine, during which students showcase their projects, allowing the business community and the general public to witness their achievements.



# Empowering Minds through Experiential Learning



Experiential learning bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world applications, equipping students with the skills and adaptability necessary to thrive in tomorrow's industries. By engaging learners in hands-on experiences, experiential learning cultivates critical thinking, problem-solving and teamwork, which are essential attributes sought by employers in the 21st century.

We engage in partnerships with various fields including aerospace engineering, culinary arts, robotics, aviation, and more, in order to transform these possibilities into actual opportunities for students. As students immerse themselves in diverse fields and careers, they acquire tangible life skills as illustrated in the following examples.

## Sweet Treats Bake Off Challenge

This challenge is more than a baking competition—it provides students with a comprehensive culinary business experience. Working in groups, students blend flavors to craft delightful treats, manage a budget, and promote their product. They also develop packaging, design their display, and sell raffle tickets both online and in-person.

Through this hands-on activity, students working with industry mentors cultivate essential life skills for business success, including teamwork, creativity, financial management, marketing, and customer service. By engaging in this multifaceted project, students enhance their culinary talents while building confidence and entrepreneurial abilities, preparing them for future endeavors in any professional field they pursue.



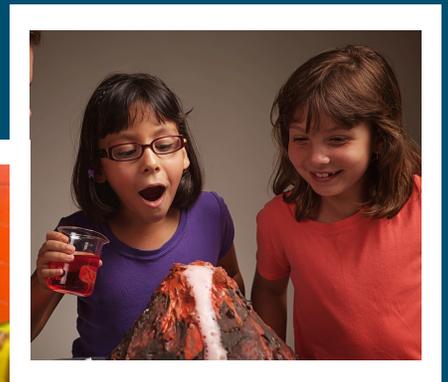
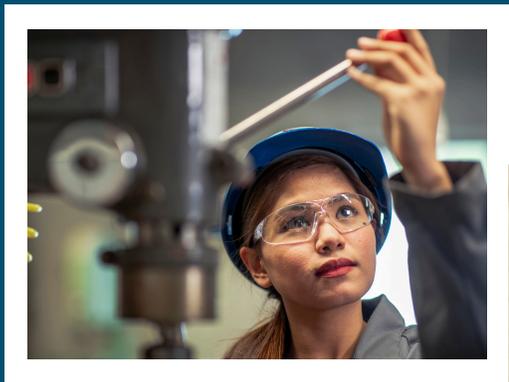
# Boundless Learning with Classroom Grants

Imagine a classroom where students don't just read about science experiments; they conduct them. Picture a world where history comes alive through interactive projects, and literature leaps off the pages as students immerse themselves in creative activities. This transformative learning experience is made possible by classroom grants.



Classroom grants empower educators to enrich their curriculum with in-class hands-on opportunities that ignite a passion for learning. From state-of-the-art technology to engaging materials, these grants bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application. By fostering curiosity and critical thinking, students develop essential skills for the future.

In collaboration with enthusiastic individuals and businesses, our classroom grant program strives to provide students with a plethora of exciting opportunities, fostering a dynamic learning environment that fuels their growth and success.



In today's rapidly evolving job market, we must prepare students for careers that do not yet exist. This means equipping them with adaptable skills and fostering a mindset of continuous learning and innovation.



## Education + Business = Prepared Workforce

Strong partnerships between businesses and educational institutions are essential in achieving this goal. By collaborating, we can ensure that curriculum and training programs remain relevant and responsive to industry needs, providing students with the practical experience and knowledge required to thrive.

At the core of our mission is the belief that vital life skills are crucial for success, regardless of the job. From critical thinking and problem-solving to communication and teamwork, these skills form the foundation for lifelong success and adaptability in an ever-changing world.

“You can teach a student a lesson for a day, but if you teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives.”

~ Clay P. Bedford, President of Kaiser Aerospace & Electronics

# BUILDING COMMUNITY

Our community succeeds when our schools are supported by an involved community that invests in our students.



*Communities are the foundation upon which schools stand.  
The strength of a school is measured not just by what happens inside its buildings, but by the unwavering support of the community that surrounds and uplifts it.*

# Partners in Education Lunch

We believe that strong business relationships are the foundation for unlocking a world of opportunities for students. Join us at this exclusive event to support relevant and practical education, provide mentorship, and contribute to the overall growth and development of our future leaders.

Our "Partners in Education" Lunch brings together schools, businesses, community leaders, parents, volunteers, and local government officials who are like-minded and want to see our students succeed. During this empowering gathering, we will gather to discuss innovative ways to support and enhance the educational experience of students. There are endless possibilities available to make a positive impact on our students' lives.

Join us at the Cabarrus County Education Foundation's Partners in Education Lunch and be part of shaping a brighter future for our students. Together, we can create a stronger community, equipped with skilled and confident young individuals who are ready to succeed in their future careers.



Join Us

OCT 10, 2024  
11:30AM

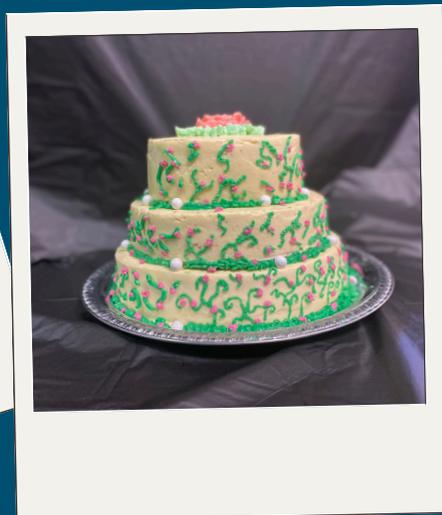
Cabarrus Arena &  
Events Center



Nothing Sweeter  
than . . .

The Sweet Treats Extravaganza is the grand finale of our Sweet Treats Bake-Off Challenge, where the hospitality industry and the community come together to celebrate culinary creativity and business acumen.

The evening showcases the hard work of our student teams as key life skills are brought together for the hospitality industry and community. Savor a variety of delectable treats and grab some raffle tickets for your opportunity to win your favorite dessert. Cheer on the teams as they compete for the coveted title of Sweet Treats champion and other amazing awards. Don't miss out on the fun and excitement!





The VEX Regional Invitational Tournament is more than just a competition; it's a celebration of innovation and teamwork. As the best teams come together to showcase their skills, this event highlights the incredible potential of VEX Robotics in shaping the future. Beyond the impressive robots on display, the tournament is about fostering the essential life skills that students need to succeed—critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration.

Through the intense challenges and creative problem-solving tasks, students learn to push boundaries and think outside the box. This tournament is a platform for them to demonstrate not only their technical abilities but also their leadership, communication, and perseverance. By participating in VEX Robotics, these students are not just building robots; they are building the foundations for their future careers and lives.

At the heart of the VEX Regional Invitational is a commitment to empowering the next generation of leaders and innovators. The skills honed in this environment go far beyond robotics—they prepare students to tackle real-world challenges with confidence and creativity. Join us to witness the incredible achievements of these young minds and see firsthand how VEX Robotics is shaping the leaders of tomorrow.



# *Igniting Futures*

**Our Students. Our Teachers.  
Our Investment.**



Supporting the Cabarrus County Education Foundation means investing in brighter futures. Your contribution directly impacts local schools, empowering students and educators with essential resources, innovative programs, and opportunities for success.

## Ways to Support

### Partners in Education Fund

By contributing to our Partners in Education Fund, your donation empowers us to allocate resources where they are most essential, ensuring the greatest possible influence and impact.

### Program Specific Support

Program-directed gifts allow donors to allocate their contributions to specific initiatives, ensuring their funds directly support areas of greatest personal significance and impact.

### Events

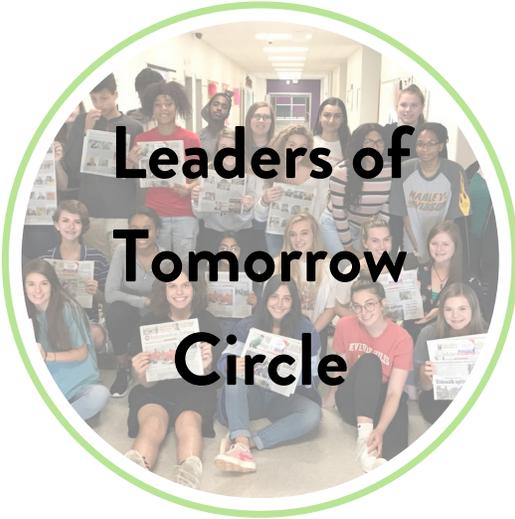
Contributing through event sponsorships or ticket purchases helps to deliver impactful learning opportunities and foster student success in the community.

### Planned Giving

Using one of the many vehicles for planned giving not only secures your legacy but also ensures the continuous enhancement of educational excellence for future generations.



Explore how your business or organization can partner with CCEF to invest in your future workforce. Your support helps provide students with essential skills and knowledge, ensuring a talented and prepared pipeline for tomorrow's industries



Support the bold spirit and vision that founded this organization, dedicated to providing transformational programs and support for CCS students and staff. Join this elite group of donors who share our passion for expanding educational and career opportunities for students and enriching the community.



Join the Future Champions Network and make a bigger impact over the long term by setting up a recurring monthly donation.



# Cultivating Bright Futures

## Join Us in Empowering Education and Community Growth

As we reflect on our commitment to educational excellence and community empowerment, the Cabarrus County Education Foundation is more determined than ever to create a brighter future for our students. Our programs have ignited curiosity, our events have fostered unity, and our collaborative efforts have yielded remarkable results.

But our journey is far from over. To continue making a difference in the lives of our students and educators, we need your support. Your involvement can shape young minds, inspire dreams, and create lasting impact. Whether you choose to donate, volunteer, or simply spread the word, your contribution matters.



### CONTACT INFORMATION

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