

# EXPLORATIONS



## 2015

École Heather Park is once again offering an Explorations Program for all students in grades 4-7. This program will run on Thursday afternoons from April 2<sup>nd</sup> –June 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Explorations program offers students targeted personalized learning opportunities based on their interests, and is framed around a

“...trend that is pushing its way into more schools, the Maker Movement. The shift to "making" represents the perfect storm of new technological materials, expanded opportunities, learning through firsthand experience, and the basic human impulse to create. It offers the potential to make classrooms more child-centered: relevant and more sensitive to each child's remarkable capacity for intensity”.

Source: <http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3758336>

At Heather Park, staff is specifically focusing the Explorations program on the uTEC Maker Model. This is a model that promotes...

- 1) Using (enjoying, sampling, engaging, playing)
- 2) Tinkering (playing, messing around, questioning, researching)
- 3) Experimenting (building, trying, failing, repurposing)
- 4) Creating (inventing, producing, entrepreneurship)



I invite parents/Guardians to read further on what Maker Ed and the uTEC Maker Model are all about at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/utecmakermodel/>

<http://makered.org/>



**Here is a list of the Explorations students get to choose from. Each student will be enrolled in 1 Exploration class.**

**1) Video Editing, Mrs. Weisgarber**

- Grades 4-7
- Learn how to create a video. We will be filming other Explorations Activities and interviewing students in those activities as one of the sources for our projects.

**2) Model Airplanes, Mr. Czechmeister**

- Grades 4-7
- Learn to build and paint a plastic model airplane. Reading and following instructions step by step is a key aspect of this workshop. Later, you will fly .049 gas String controlled airplanes on the big field and we will review the components of a Radio Control Airplane and an RC helicopter.

**3) Computer Programming, Mr. Earle**

- Grades 4-7
- Learn the basics of programming computers. Design your own computer game and challenge your friends.

**4) Soapbox Cars, Mr. Pineault and Mrs. McCannon**

- Grades 6-7
- Build a real Soapbox car out of wood and materials! You will work in teams of 4 and build a car that you can race on Heather Road when everyone is done.

**5) “Transformers”, Mr. Laupitz.**

- Grades 4-5
- Tear down machines and make your own creations out of machines. See the samples from last year in the hallways upstairs. Students will also be involved in challenging others in designing and exploring real working machines with a variety of materials. Sure to be a lot of imaginative, educational, inventive FUN!

**6) Baking, Mrs. Harms**

- Grades 4-7
- Learn some of the basics of baking and enjoy eating what you make.

**7) Hands On Engineering Projects, Mr. Edge**

- Grades 4-7
- Build it, break it, float it, sink it, drop it, fix it, and improve it! Simple hands on projects to test your imagination.

**8) Mars Colony, Mrs. Moulder**

- Grades 4-7
- Have you heard that volunteers are being sought for a one way trip to Mars? What will the proposed Mars Colony look like? What will they need to survive? What are the challenges to life on Mars? Will you be a volunteer to go? Build a replica of the Mars Colony with your classmates and discover wonderful things about space travel and Mars.

**9) Knitting, Mrs. Bracey**

- Grades 4-7
- Learn how to knit using a round knitting loom. It's fun, easy, and faster than knitting with needles. Come create a project with us.

**10) Band, Mr. Mulligan**

- Grades 6-7
- Learn to play an instrument. Students will learn from scratch to play instruments like clarinet, trumpet, flute, bass guitar, percussion, or saxophone. No musical experience necessary. Last year the Heather Park Band presented a thrilling final performance to "This too shall pass" by the band OK Go. Students will learn the basics of their instrument and learn to play together as a group

**11) Tuff Little Mudders, Mrs. Attree & Mr. Millar**

- Grades 4-7
- Fun games, activities and challenges designed to have students work cooperatively and use collaborative intelligence to solve problems in a competitive setting. This exploration course will help students build resiliency and a capacity for healthy competition. Games include Survivor, Mantracker in the woods, Greek Olympics, Roman Sentry Game,s and Heather Park's Tough Mudder Course. Come out, get active, work together, and get dirty!

**12) Boot Camp, Mrs. Baltus**

- Grades 4-7
- If you are interested in fitness or in maintaining your current level of fitness, then sign up for Boot Camp. There will be a variety of station activities... such as, lunges, tricep dips, squats, push-ups etc. This fast paced workout will be set to music and we will be using equipment such as, steppers, mats, and small weights. Materials needed: water bottle, gym strip, and runners.

**13) Cardboard Creations, Mrs. Haugland**

- Grades 4-7
- You would not believe what can be done with simple Cardboard! Create the most unusual items out of cardboard with your classmates. Examples include, Play houses, garages for toys, boxes, doll-houses, and more.

**14) Art Using Natural Media, Mrs. Pomeroy**

- Grades 4-7
- In this Explorations course, students will be encouraged to take the time to enjoy what nature has to offer and become aware of their surroundings. They will use this awareness to find and use natural materials to create artwork. Students will go on a nature scavenger hunt, explore trails surrounding Heather Park, create outdoor mandalas, research outdoor artists, create, and photograph their own unique outdoor art pieces. Let's reconnect with the natural world!