

# Montour Elementary School Makerspace Inspires Student Makers

Montour Elementary School created the first makerspace made of LEGO® bricks and LEGO® Education solutions. The use of brightly-colored bricks, digital lessons and hands-on robotics makes up The Brick Makerspace Powered By LEGO Education Solutions, a learner-centered space giving students opportunities to design, make, tinker and think creatively.

Among the materials the students explore are LEGO® MINDSTORMS® Education EV3, LEGO® Education WeDo 2.0, and LEGO® Education Simple & Powered Machines, where students learn standards-aligned lessons in science, technology, art, math, language arts, architecture and engineering. Students even have the liberty to test creations on a test track ramp or create a stop motion animation video with their creations. The innovative opportunities are endless!

Some of the many skills being fostered in the space are teamwork, problem-solving and perseverance. "One skill that every kid needs more of is communication when working with their peers," says Amanda McDermott, STEAM Teacher. "It is more important to me for a student to come into my room and learn how to fail and persevere through a challenge than it is for a student to come into my room and get something right the first time," she continues. The space facilitates collaborative learning, along with the opportunity to authentically practice working through the

engineering design process and computational thinking.

The evolution of the space was a collaborative effort between the community, including students, parents, teachers, administrators and LEGO® Education. "At Montour, we like to use the learning terms 'hands-on, minds-on' for tactile educational activities that spark motivation and excitement. The new Brick Makerspace powered by LEGO Education solutions is

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certainly an inspiring environment where our kids can imagine, design, create, and share ideas with one another. The interplay of imagination and education is really what makes this space so special," said Dr. Christopher Stone, Superintendent of Montour School District.

McDermott shares that students



## Amanda McDermott

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leave the makerspace inspired and proud of what they are learning within the space and excited to share their projects with the other grade levels. Silver McDonald, Head of LEGO® Education North America says, "We look forward to seeing what the students using the new space will imagine, build and create for years to come, and how the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills they are acquiring will inspire and equip them for their future careers."

