

STARBASE Vermont Newsletter



Fall 2020

Our mission is to raise the interest and improve the knowledge and skills of youth in science, technology, engineering, and math.



STARBASE Vermont

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We are on Facebook!
@starbasevermont

Newest STEM Lessons at STARBASE By Taylor “Patriot” Pequignot

We have implemented some new, fun lessons into the curriculum! These new lessons include a lesson about energy, a geometry lesson about René Descartes, a fingerprint lesson, and some exciting updates to existing lessons. During the energy lesson students learn the basics about energy while investigating several examples of how it converts from one type of energy into another. While learning how René Descartes created the Cartesian grid, the students get the chance to play a game in which they attempt to locate missing aircrafts. The fingerprint lesson shows students how to identify their type of fingerprint while collecting data from their class and use it to do different math conversions. These lessons have been great additions to the STARBASE Vermont curriculum.





Virtual and E-Learning Opportunities from STARBASE Vermont

By Emma “Veery” Sherman

Even though the 2019-2020 school year ended abruptly, STARBASE Vermont has been churning out the fun with hands-on STEM activities for kids and adults alike to try at home. From cool science tricks to creating your own garden, STARBASE Vermont has something fun and active for you and your household to enjoy. You will find a range of videos, interactive Google Slides, and instructional documents curated for exciting learning. Visit STARBASE Vermont's website, www.starbasevt.org, or our Facebook page to discover more!

Finally, what's the best thing about all of these opportunities from STARBASE VT? All of them are completely FREE! We hope you enjoy these activities and maybe learn a little something too!



Website Renovations

By Emily “Fern” Bennett

Our website has been renovated! There are new resources and learning opportunities at www.starbasevt.org. With the increasing need for virtual resources and online learning tools, we have added a link to our Google Drive folder which has a growing library of activities and experiments to try at home.

In addition to the resources that the STARBASE Vermont staff has created, our “For Kids” page has links to several science websites for exploration, and that's not all! For teachers who have attended STARBASE with their class, we have provided extension activities that can be completed back at school supplementing the lesson taught at STARBASE Vermont. Be sure to check it out!

What Have We Been Up To?

By Emma “Veery” Sherman & Emily “Fern” Bennett

The 2020-2021 school year started off strong, it has been however, anything but normal. Each site made adjustments to their curriculum and routines to provide this year's students with the same hands-on experience that STARBASE prides itself on; all the while adhering to the COVID-19 regulations and safety protocols. Although we have had students onsite we have made accommodations for schools with an off-site program called “STARBASE on Wheels” which allowed students to participate who were unable to take field trips.

The South Burlington team worked with the 6th graders from the Winooski Middle School to provide them with the rocket launch experience they missed out on due to a stay at home order in the spring. This year has also included working with students at Saint Francis Xavier, Christ the King, Swanton Elementary, Integrated Arts Academy, and John J. Flynn Elementary.

The Rutland team started off the school year with “STARBASE on Wheels” visiting 5th and 6th graders at Sunderland, Fair Haven, Windsor, West Rutland, and Mettawee Schools. Our program now is in full swing reaching Rutland Intermediate, Christ the King, Proctor, Rutland Town, and Killington Elementary Schools with all of them being able to attend in-person.

The staff has been working hard to reach out and make accommodations for teachers and students to be able to safely participate in the program. We are looking forward to a busy spring for STARBASE as we continue to reach students during the pandemic. Schools are excited to be able to participate in the program because they know that the STARBASE staff is committed to hosting a high quality program in a safe environment. For many schools this is the only major field trip they will participate in this year.





2.0 Afterschool Program By Rebecca “Galaxy” Steward

Each site has expanded to include afterschool programs. The programs, which are aptly named STARBASE 2.0, are being coordinated by Paige Clark at the South Burlington site and Rebecca Steward at the Rutland site. A big thank you goes out to the STARBASE non-profit board for their continued support in funding this exciting afterschool program. We are now able to reach students in 6th-8th grade. These programs take place at participating schools. Students who are excited about STEM have the opportunity to explore in greater depth the concepts they learned about in the 5 day STARBASE program. They work closely with mentors who have knowledge of STEM concepts. We are always looking for volunteers to work with our students in an afterschool setting. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact us at paige@starbasevt.org or rebecca@starbasevt.org.



New Tech at STARBASE By JoAnna “Hiker Girl” Tebbetts

STARBASE Vermont updated their technology lab this year. New Dell laptops have been installed with colorful mouse pads. These computers run Computer Aided Design programs and robotics much more smoothly than the old laptops and desktops. Technology upgrades over the next two years will include iPads, a newer model of a 3D printer, additional coding software, upgraded Computer Aided Design software from Parametric Technology Corporation, and dynamic whiteboards. This new electronic technology will allow for the same hands-on STARBASE experience with better sharing capabilities for our local classroom teachers. We can also provide differentiated activities for students who may need them. Stay tuned for these technological advancements!



Staff Spotlight: Emily Bennett By Paige “Ladybug” Clark

Meet Emily or “Fern,” our newest teacher at the South Burlington site! Emily has been teaching at STARBASE since September 2019, and we are thrilled to have her as part of our team. Emily quickly jumped into the classroom and learned the ins and outs of our program in no time.

Emily is from a small town in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She attended DeSales University in Lehigh County, PA where she earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and is currently certified in secondary education. She was interested in becoming a teacher so she could share her love of learning with her students as well as be a positive role model. She also wants to help students navigate a time in their life that is full of change and growth. After graduating college, Emily’s explorations led her to Burlington, Vermont.

When asked what her favorite part about teaching at STARBASE, Emily responded, “I get to facilitate hands-on, minds-on learning opportunities that teach students to question why things work the way they do. On top of that, I get to share how much fun you can have while studying STEM topics!” One of Emily’s favorite lessons to teach is, *Pop, Goes the Fizz*. This lesson focuses on creating chemical reactions, data collection, as well as mini explosions. “*The reaction that kids have when they see that first explosion is priceless.*”

In her free time, Emily enjoys hiking, swimming, and being outside in beautiful Vermont. She also loves spending time in the kitchen trying out new recipes and listening to her favorite tunes.

STARBASE Vermont



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**I really hope STARBASE keeps
doing what it's doing because I
learned A LOT! STARBASE
changed my life; I didn't know
the things I just learned!"**

-Moon, Francis Xavier School

STARBASE Vermont Staff

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Rebecca Steward (Galaxy), Unit Chief, RUT
JoAnna Tebbetts (Hiker Girl) Training Coordinator, BTV
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