

STRAFFORD
LEARNING CENTER

GET IN TOUCH WITH
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ELO Hub Newsletter

QUARTER 1, 2016 - 2017

Manufacturing Week

The week of October 11-14 was Manufacturing Week in New Hampshire, and Students from COA and the ELO Hub got an up close look at some of the manufacturing sites here in the Seacoast area, including IPSUMM and Sig Sauer.

A large group of students had the chance to check out IPSUMM Robotics in Newington on Wednesday, October 12, and learn about how robots transform from an idea, to a trial, to a functioning cog

in the manufacturing machine. Seven students and three staff members made the trip to Pease to learn more about this unique business, which builds machines for other companies. These machines perform precision actions to aid in manufacturing, everything from shoes to tools.

A smaller group travelled to Pease on Tuesday, October 11, to learn about the Sig Sauer manufacturing plants. These students had the op-

portunity to see first hand how important precision is in manufacturing, as well as how many employees it takes at all different levels of the company, to make a manufacturing plant of that size run efficiently.

This was a great opportunity for all of our students, and allowed them a close up view of manufacturers in the area.

-Terrill

ELOs, what are they?

I want to extend my welcome to the Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) Hub for the 2016-2017 school year here at Charles Ott Academy. We have already had some great projects created here at the ELO Hub, such as a working wind turbine, a functioning model of a body organ and a baby quilt. The students and I look forward to creating even more amazing projects as part of their Extended Learning Opportunities. Extended Learning Opportunities engage students in independent and robust learning experiences driven by their own interests and passions in subjects students care deeply about. These unique learning experi-

ences complement a student's desire to learn and is an alternative way to receive credit in English, art, science, and more subjects. ELOs take the form of independent study, internships, online learning, or private instruction and are built upon the pillars of research, reflection, product and presentation. All ELO's culminate in a final presentation of learning that exhibits a student's mastery of the knowledge and skills associated with their ELO. We have already had great successes and are looking forward to many more this year here at the ELO Hub. As we settle into our new space in the mill building, students will have even more opportunities to enhance their individ-



ual learning experiences through creative and innovative spaces customized to their ELO's. As always, thank you for your continued support of your child's academic success.

- Joshua Shawver, ELO Hub Teacher

A Message from the Director

Greetings!

The 2016-2017 school year has started stronger than we ever expected! We have welcomed back many students and are fortunate to have some new students join us. This year we have worked hard to expand our program offerings. Many in education are talking about student engagement. They want to discover the “secret” of what motivates students to learn and want to attend school. At COA and the ELO HUB we know that application is at the heart of engagement. When students get to “make stuff” and have that “stuff” do something, they are more likely to like school and want to come back. Project Based Learning is at the core of this belief. This term we have had them shoot rockets, build podiums, shovel wood chips, design their own community service goals, create a Halloween party, and the list goes on! We have worked hard to build a positive community within our walls and share our passion with

those around us through community service.

We believe that there are essentially three parts to a student’s success. First - you must like your students. We *really* like our students! Each is unique and we miss them when they are absent. Second- learning must be fun and relevant. Learning must be assessed through real world situations. Learning about geometry in a text book isn’t nearly as fun as going outside and figuring out the height of the rocket you just built and launched! Third- *relationships, relationships, relationships*. These are precious and they allow us to move between and among the bad days that we all experience. We all have a bad day. But we are not defined by them. Treat each other with respect and the bad days will go away and in their place will be good days. We *cannot* help students unless we have good relationships with those invested in the student’s success.

We look forward to finishing this semester strong. As always we cannot do it without your support. Our doors are open and you are welcome to come in and chat with myself or staff to get to know all the great things happening at COA and the ELO HUB.

-Paul

