

Exciting news! Our school recently received approval from the state and district to purchase a brand-new STEM based science and math curriculum. We will be among if not the first in Western Washington to use this curriculum at the elementary level. This curriculum was conceived to align with Common Core state standards for Math and English Language Arts and Next Generation Science Standards.

A little background: In 2013, Washington State adopted Next Generation Science Standards as a mandatory new set of standards that provide consistent science education through all grades, with an emphasis on engineering and technology. However, the state is not providing funding for the purchase of a new curriculum to support these standards. Unfortunately, the science curriculum that Hollywood Hill currently uses is now obsolete in many ways. That is why our PTA is working so hard to raise funds for the purchase of PLTW.

From the Lead the Way website: Project Lead The Way offers a different approach to learning and teaching. Through activity-, project-, and problem-based curriculum, PLTW gives students in kindergarten through high school a chance to apply what they know, identify problems, find unique solutions, and lead their own learning.



Studies show that students decide as early as elementary school whether they like, and think they are good at, math and science. PLTW Launch is designed for students in kindergarten through fifth grade to capture their interest in and spark a lifelong passion for math and science. Through a series of topic-based modules, students engage in design problems that encourage collaboration, analysis, problem solving, and computational thinking. They use touch technology, robotics, and everyday materials to explore topics such as energy, light and sound, motion and stability, and gravity. Students apply the design process to sketch, build, and reflect on a new paintbrush design or use VEX IQ robotics components to develop an animal rescue device. With Launch, students will leave elementary school with a passion for and confidence in the STEM subjects, ready to continue their learning in middle school, high school, and beyond.

Hollywood Hill is planning to purchase this curriculum with grants from the PTA.

There is a great upfront cost to implementing a new curriculum! The school must purchase the curriculum program, conduct teacher training, and also purchase the tools and technology needed to implement the program. That's why we're having an auction this year, our first in 7 years! In addition to funding all the great PTA programs we provide year after year, we are also hoping to fund this PLTW program. The money we raise this year is an investment in the future! The implementation of the STEM program, using PLTW, will benefit the school for years and years to come!