

To whom it may concern,

STEM and science have become synonymous in recent years; however, they are not the same. With all of the talk about girls in STEM and engineering, all you see are pictures of girls doing science. But STEM is so much more than that! STEM is everywhere, in everything we do. STEM is more about engineering creativity and solving problems using *all* of the skills we have and discovering many we didn't know we had. When I helped design a new STEM program for my classroom as well as the district's middle level classrooms, I made sure it included many skills, like technical drawing and pattern recognition, that most people don't think of when defining STEM. When I helped Franklin STEAM Academy win its grant and develop its magnet program, I made sure that almost every piece of technology we put in our new makerspace was something that could also be useful in other subject areas. I love teaching students "how to STEM," and that's one of many reasons why I would like to be your STEM teacher.

In 16 years of teaching both the sciences, STE(A)M, and Makerspace, the passion I have for teaching, learning, and finding the fun in both subjects has been my driving force. I know if I'm bored, they're bored. An engaging and challenging curriculum is the first step in preventing that boredom. A passionate delivery and welcoming support coupled with quality classroom management are all essential parts of an effective STEM class. The engineering process can be complex, but I've seen students who struggle with reading and math become architects and fingerprinting experts in my class. Teaching 8th graders how to use micropipettes and gel electrophoresis in order to analyze the DNA of a "crime scene" during a final project is challenging, accessible, and very rewarding. Hands-on explorations blur the lines between struggling and exceeding students. Designing 3D items using geometry skills they didn't know they had and watching those items print is just fun! And who doesn't love watching their teacher "educate" them on the engineering of an 80's music video (and maybe singing some bad music while she's at it)? I have many years of experience creating successful curriculum from the ground up, and I can do the same for you.

My dedication to learning does not end when students and I leave the classroom. At North Bethesda Middle School, a colleague and I built a Science Olympiad program whose varsity team earned several trips to Nationals. We not only organized three different teams each year, but we brought in parents and community members to help the Olympians earn their spots at Nationals. To ignite and keep the fire of learning burning, I've organized multiple Saturday field trips to activities that show students what the world of STEM has to offer. I researched and sought out opportunities for field trips and summer camps to share with students of all backgrounds. Please refer to my resume for many other qualities I can bring to your school. I look forward to further talking with you about how I can be a great asset for your program.

Sincerely,

Heather Cameron

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