



News From

STEMVision Inc.

Empowering the Next Generation in STEM

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Respicere

We left our classroom in March 2020, thinking we would return in three weeks. Many of us have not stepped foot on our school campus in more than a year. This lost year only serves to mock our naive expectations and iterates that life is unbelievably so ephemeral.

The depth of grief this pandemic has brought is not lost on us. Millions of people, including countless students, have lost loved ones to this disease. As the second wave of the pandemic sweeps part of the globe, we are reminded that the threat persists. While we should count ourselves lucky if we have not experienced a fatal case of COVID-19, the truth remains we have still suffered as students. Amidst the storm, we have endured and marched forward.

Aarush had a rough six months of insanity with the college applications, and now we are very excited that he is headed for Johns Hopkins University. John also completed his high school and is still making his final college selection. Congratulations to Aarush and John!!! Anika transitions to high school. I have finished junior year and am preparing for the final year of high school. I was fortunate to earn the Hillsborough School district Best in Fair in Science Fair: Artificial Intelligence, first in the category and one of the grand awards in Florida STEM Fair. Amidst all the chaos, I am currently competing virtually at the Regeneron International STEM fair. All our team members are wrapping up the current grade and looking forward to an exciting STEM-tastic summer with more STEMVision courses for the kids.

In one year, we have lost our habits as students, our daily interactions with friends, and have fundamentally changed as people. While our teachers have poured outstanding effort into their Canvas pages and Zoom meetings, online education will never be as valuable as one that takes place in the classroom. Perhaps much is lost in digital translation.

STEMVision has forged ahead with STEM classes, and the more we look at STEM, the more we understand the importance of Mathematics, which is more consequential than ever. Passing Algebra 1, for example, is one of the most powerful indicators of on-track preparedness for high school graduation. As we rebound from COVID-19, emerging data suggests that we will need a system-wide focus on accelerating students in all levels of math. How can Algebra 1, this vital course, move from being a gatekeeper to a gateway to opportunity for all students? So, stay tuned as we bring more STEM courses in the summer, including Introductory and Intermediate Python Programming and more science and math classes.

Returning to our social lives will take a good deal of adjusting, but we will do it. We are thankful to our partners and patrons for their steadfast support, dedication, and expertise.

Our Impact to Community Success

Total Number of Courses: 28

Total Number of Participants: 2,167

Our Team (as of May 2021)

Anika Prasad, Megha Manoj, Jon Santmyer, Aruna Harpalani, Nandini Iyer, Isha Kapoor, Emily Baker, Camille Frank, Yacob Zitouni, Ayush Gupta, Devanshu Gupta, Swarnima Prasad, Abhishil Prasad, Arko Ghosh, & Aarush Prasad



An Article for Everyone

New Rovers for the Red Planet

Mars' thin atmosphere makes it hard to slow a probe to a soft landing. Of the 18 robotic probes sent to the planet's surface over the past 50 years, eight have crashed. After a seven-month-long journey, NASA's Perseverance Rover successfully touched down on the Red Planet on February 18, 2021. The Mars 2020 Perseverance mission embodies our nation's spirit of persevering even in the most challenging of situations, inspiring, and advancing science and exploration.

About the size of a car, the 2,263-pound robotic geologist and astrobiologist will undergo several weeks of testing before it begins its two-year science investigation of Mars' Jezero Crater. While the rover will investigate the rock and sediment of Jezero's ancient lakebed and river delta to characterize the region's geology and past climate, a fundamental part of its mission is astrobiology, including the search for signs of ancient microbial life. To that end, the Mars sample will allow scientists on Earth to study samples collected by Perseverance to search for definitive signs of past life using instruments too large and complex to send to the Red Planet. The mission itself personifies the human ideal of persevering toward the future and the exploration of the Red Planet.

Photo Credit - A "sky crane" landing device is designed to lower a 1-ton NASA rover to a soft landing on Mars. NASA/JPL-CALTECH

Photo Credit - Perseverance Rover's Landing Site: Jezero Crater. <https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/mission/science/landing-site/>

Reference - NASA. (2021, February 19). Touchdown! NASA's Mars Perseverance Rover Safely Lands on Red Planet - NASA's Mars Exploration Program. NASA. <https://mars.nasa.gov/news/8865/touchdown-nasas-mars-perseverance-rover-safely-lands-on-red-planet/>.

Snap! Crackle! Brainteaser!

You planted sunflower seeds in your back garden. Every day, the number of flowers doubles. If it takes 52 days for the flowers to fill the garden, how many days would it take for them to fill half the garden?

Answer: 51 days

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