



DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

PRESS RELEASE

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For further information contact: Julie Darling, Media Specialist and Makerspace Coordinator
darlingj@dexterschools.org 734-424-4100

Creekside School Receives Makerspace Grant from MACUL

July 15th, 2015 – Creekside Intermediate School Media Specialist Julie Darling has been awarded a \$1500 grant from the Michigan Association for Computer Uses in Learning to develop the school's new media center Makerspace.

A Makerspace is a classroom area dedicated to hands-on projects designed to encourage creativity while tying in to state standards for science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics curriculum. Students access tools and resources that may be used to create physical or digital objects, or a combination of the two.

The Creekside Makerspace will be available for an elective course on STEAM subjects as well being used for special units during classes' regularly scheduled media center time. Staff may also check out materials for use in their own classrooms. The MACUL grant will support the purchase of materials such as science kits, 3-Doodler (3D) pens, tools, art supplies, and an Oculus Rift virtual reality mask for 3D game design. As part of the Makerspace program, Creekside staff will invite community experts to visit and demonstrate how to make various objects. The Creekside Makerspace program will debut with the 2015-16 school year.

MACUL was established in 1975 to provide teachers, administrators, technicians, and support personnel with a forum for sharing knowledge about the many ways computers and technology are used in education. In addition to classroom grants such as this one, the organization offers members a scholarly journal, regional and state conferences, and national networking opportunities.

Creekside Principal Tammy Reich said: "We are excited to add to the opportunities for student innovation in the area of STEAM through a Makerspace program...Innovation is an essential, real-world skill. Makerspace will provide what students need to become the innovators of our future and we are excited to provide this opportunity for our Creekside students."

Julie Darling added: "I am grateful to MACUL for providing funding to launch our Makerspace...volunteers have already offered to share their time and expertise...I feel very lucky to work with such a supportive and engaged community."