Summer 2015: Discovery STEM Camp

For sixteen fun-filled days in June, Altar Valley Middle School was the sight of roller coasters, solar cars, wind turbines, catapults, and many more STEM creations and experiments. Students in second through eighth grades were invited to attend Discovery STEM Camp, an engineering and design experience with a focus on energy. Observers were likely to see students of all ages actively engaged in science, technology, engineering, and math. Both teachers and students enjoyed the hands-on learning. In addition to the STEM classes, students were able to choose music, art, cooking, or volleyball as a special. Our first graders were treated to a week with a teacher from the Arizona Science Center. In that one week they dissected scorpions, made volcanoes and robots, and built structures from spaghetti and marshmallows! One student commented on his end of summer survey, “This is the coolest school I have ever been to.”

We are looking forward to continuing the camp next summer with more exciting experiments and fun, active learning!

*Wind Turbines!*
2015-16 School Year: Paxton Patterson

This school year, we are very excited about the Paxton Patterson Lab at Altar Valley Middle School! The Paxton Lab has been added to our students’ schedules as a Special Area Class. So, in addition to Art and P.E., each of our students will have the opportunity to experience an Integrated Instructional Unit (IIU) and learn about topics such as Forensic Science and Flight Technology through a combination of computer-based modules and hands-on activities. As our Paxton Lab teacher, Georgina Woodley, put it, “If we want our students to be competitive in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, we have to give them positive experiences in those areas. Paxton Patterson modules are a step in that direction.” We are proud of our Paxton Lab and we are looking forward to showcasing our students and teacher at the STEM Conference in Phoenix in January!