

Press Release



Phillips 66 Grant Gives Students Hands-on Science

Ponca City Public Schools recently received a \$30,000 grant from Phillips 66. The purpose of the grant is to support the implementation of hand-on science kits in the elementary schools. Each of these kits contains STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, and Math) practices. Some examples of these practices include:

- Using mathematics and computational thinking
- Constructing explanations for science and designing solutions for engineering
- Asking questions and defining problems
- Developing and using models
- Planning and carrying out investigations

Some of our kits include: Exploring Forces in Motion-Kindergarten, Organisms-1st grade, Floating and Sinking-2nd grade, Butterflies-3rd grade, Electric Circuits-4th Grade, and Ecosystems-5th grade.

Ponca City School Associate Director of Elementary Curriculum Teri Vogele said, “I am a big believer in our hands-on science kits. I believe these kits are highly beneficial to our students. Through these kits they receive an engaged, hands-on experience rather than a canned science curriculum from a textbook. They are actually working through the scientific process, making predictions, gathering and graphing data, and developing engineering and technology skills. Many districts are not lucky enough to have a program like this for their students because it is very expensive and can be hard to manage. Our elementary students benefit from this hands-on science curriculum each year. These science kits also guarantee engagement, and they naturally allow students to collaborate and problem solve together which are 21st century skills.”

Pictured L-R: Pat Darby (Phillips 66 Operations manager), Carl Johnston (PCPS Science Kit Facilitator), Tim Seidel (Phillips 66 Plant Manager), Dr. David Pennington (PCPS Superintendent)

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