Becca and her production team created a video to teach elementary school students about healthy lifestyles.

Lights, camera…learning!

Welcome to the real world of 21st century skills.

Kevin and Javier are using gear ratios to predict the speed of their model car.

Hands-on math!

Sarah and Meaghan engineered a light-sensing robotic platform to automatically align a solar panel to the sun.

Now that's cool science!

Becca and her production team created a video to teach elementary school students about healthy lifestyles.

Lights, camera…learning!
STEM for students of all abilities

Creative Learning Systems welcomes you, your students, and teachers to a remarkable new world of learning. We call it a SmartLab™. Like the many hundreds of schools using this solution now, you’ll call it a launch pad for 21st century achievement; a powerful STEM program where technology is applied to engaging projects every day; a place for hands-on, minds-on learning, supporting academic content across the curriculum.
Is this a technology class, a STEM program, or a thinking-skills class?

Yes! In a SmartLab you’ll see students busily creating robots, remarkable engineering projects, dazzling animations, and more. You’ll also see students developing important 21st century skills, such as:

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Communication Skills
- Application of Technology to Workflow
- Creativity and Innovation
- Project Management
- Research Skills and Information Literacy
- Collaboration and Teamwork
- Self-Direction and Assessment

These are the skills that build post-secondary and workforce readiness. It’s a way of teaching and learning that prepares students for the jobs of the future. In the SmartLab, students apply technology to projects of personal and academic relevance. It’s a multi-disciplinary environment where connections are made, and standards are met in technology, science, math, language arts, and social studies. It’s a place where learning is active and engaging, where students present their learning through ePortfolios, where assessment is meaningful and authentic.
What's a SmartLab?
A SmartLab is a 21st century learning lab. It’s a next-generation learning environment, rich in professional-standard technology. It’s a project-based, student-centered curriculum supporting STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and other core academic content. It’s a powerfully integrated system of furniture, hardware, software, electronics, multimedia equipment, construction kits and manipulatives, curriculum and assessment tools. It’s an intelligent turnkey solution that includes curriculum, professional development, systems integration, and robust support. But that’s just the beginning.

Why does this innovative approach to learning work so effectively?
It’s a simple strategy. Engage students of all abilities in authentic projects that capture their fascination with technology. Challenge them with projects that are flexible, open-ended, and demand their creativity. Enrich learning with hands-on, minds-on curriculum and resources. Guide and support academically-relevant exploration while empowering students to explore topics of personal interest.

We don’t simply “talk” about integrating technology with academics. We provide a system that makes it a reality...every school day.

What happens in a SmartLab?
Students progress through a series of curriculum-guided and self-directed project engagements. As they tackle these projects, they learn essential technology skills and systems, including:

- Mechanics and Structures
- Computer Graphics
- Science and Data Acquisition
- Publishing and Multimedia
- Alternative and Renewable Energy
- Robotics and Control Technology
- Circuitry
- Computer Simulation

Our approach to technology is unique, practical, and remarkably effective. Students do not simply learn technology skills in a vacuum. They learn to apply technology to everyday workflow. They use it in a multitude of ways as they design projects, test their ideas, and create ePortfolios to document their learning.
“Students who typically struggle suddenly become engaged. Mid-level students start pursuing more challenging work. And our high achievers? They soar.”

Dennis Gable
Teacher, Elkhart Central High School

Is this really for all learners? In a word, yes.
With a wide range of curriculum, resources, and technology – from foundational level tools to professional-standard applications – we meet each student where they are and take them as far as they are able to go.

Every project engagement is an open-ended learning opportunity, guided but adaptive, with an emphasis on personal relevance. Advanced engagements challenge high-performing students. Special needs students interact with hands-on activities. At-risk students have the chance to re-connect with learning. It’s flexibility in action…all focused on learning.

What about results?
Schools with SmartLabs report challenged, engaged students. Learners perform better in core academic classes thanks to the applied learning that’s part of every SmartLab experience. Many schools report that students in the SmartLab program improve their test scores, present fewer discipline problems, and are at a reduced risk of dropping out. Those are the kinds of results that matter.

How is learning assessed?
Authentic assessment of skills like critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration requires evaluation of the actual learning process. In the SmartLab, students document their learning daily. They develop meaningful objectives, establish project plans for each engagement, and create ePortfolios of their work. Customizable rubrics allow for authentic assessment of learning, while students build critical communication skills through their portfolios and presentations.

Is this one size fits all?
No. In fact, since creating the first technology lab in a U.S. school in 1987, we’ve designed and built many hundreds of SmartLabs across the country. Every one is a unique learning solution designed to meet the needs of each school partner and their learning community. It’s a thorough and collaborative process tailored to your academic goals, model of usage, and, of course, budget.
What's the next step?
We invite you to talk with our educational design consultants, arrange a personal visit to a SmartLab in your area, or to simply begin by visiting our web site at www.creativelearningsystems.com

Together, we'll develop a SmartLab solution that will launch your students on a path of discovery, learning, and success.

Creative Learning Systems
800.458.2880  www.creativelearningsystems.com