



Greetings St. Bernard School Community!

As the school year begins, I wanted to take a moment to let you know about a new endeavor taking place at SBS this year, and to ask for your help with making it amazing for our students.

As you may be aware, in the last several years there has been a growing culture of “makers” in our country (and other countries, too), and people everywhere are learning all kinds of new skills to become “do-it-yourselfers.” Libraries, schools, workshops and other public spaces have rapidly embraced this maker culture by hosting various “making” events and carving out creative work areas known as **makerspaces**. This year, SBS will have its own makerspace!

What exactly is a makerspace? It is a place where use of tools, tinkering materials, building, crafting, creativity and imagination are encouraged. Sometimes the goal is to create a specific item. Other times, the goal is to learn by deconstructing things. People try out new technologies that they are unfamiliar with in makerspaces to gain familiarity with new concepts. Some folks even use makerspaces to create products that turn into successful business ventures. STEM/STEAM concepts are a central focus of many makerspace activities.

My vision of a makerspace at SBS will include hand tools and wood-working space, tinkering (deconstructing/reconstructing materials) station, building materials (LEGO, etc.), craft/art materials, circuitry stations, sewing machines/knitting area, and a monthly special projects/tech area that features a rotating new item each month. Students will have makerspace time that connects with their library lessons or during free periods such as lunch/recess and at the discretion of classroom teachers. The space will likely also be used for afterschool clubs such as the knitting club, craft club and for special maker events.

In order to ensure the success of the makerspace, I would like to ask our community for any donations of items you have at home that you no longer need such as old hand tools (non-power), hardware (screws, nails, etc), old electronics or small appliances/toys that can be taken apart, craft items such as embroidery floss, card stock, popsicle sticks, glue, fabric, felt, yarn, cardboard, electrical/craft wire, pipe cleaners, beads, string, construction paper, origami paper, other usable paper, writing/drawing materials, craft paints, and building items such as unwanted LEGO bricks, tinker toys, lincoln logs, blocks, scrap wood, magna tiles, etc. I am thrilled to be able to clean out many items from my own home for this worthy cause!

Any items you would like to donate should be dropped off at St. Bernard School to my attention (Mrs. Frost). If you don't have any items at home that you think would work for the makerspace, donations of gift cards to local craft, home improvement or fabric stores are also appreciated. Additionally, I anticipate a dress down day this fall for funding some larger ticket items for the makerspace.

I thank you in advance for your support of this unique and exciting new offering at our school. I know I can't wait to see what our talented students create and discover in this new, wonderful space in our school.

Sincerely,

Kristen Frost
SBS Librarian