

Values and Vision

Academic Excellence

We will set high expectations and use effective instructional strategies to meet the needs of all learners.

Exploration and Relevance

We will construct real-world opportunities for children to make discoveries on their own, integrating science, technology, engineering, and math into the other curricular areas.

Character

We will build a positive environment and empower children to become people of integrity, compassion, and empathy.

Partnerships

We will develop partnerships and promote opportunities for family and community involvement in our building.

"STEM is designed for students who enjoy challenges and investigating the world around them."



**Benton Elementary
1410 Hinkson Ave.
Columbia, MO 65202**

**Phone (573) 214-3610
Fax (573) 214-3611**

*Learning through
Discovery*



*Leading with
Character*

SCIENCE

With the release of the Science Missouri Learning Standards, we have aligned our curriculum to ensure we provide students with authentic science learning experiences where they can begin to develop science and engineering practices. Our teachers have developed units of study around the standards that provide hands-on learning opportunities and connect to real-world experiences.

We also have developed many learning spaces to create an ideal learning environment for the study of science and engineering. These spaces include our STEM lab, nature play area, outdoor classroom, green houses, raised bed gardens, and composting area.

TECHNOLOGY

At Benton, we believe technology is a tool that is used to enhance student learning and solve problems. Therefore, each classroom space has an interactive ClearTouch® board and a document camera. All our classrooms are 1:1 with student iPads. The building has a computer lab, digital microscopes, time-lapse cameras, and many other technological tools that enhance student learning.

ENGINEERING

We currently implement the Project Lead the Way Launch engineering curriculum. Students explore various science and engineering concepts by participating in hands-on design challenges. As part of this program, students in 3rd & 4th grade work with VEX robotics construction kits to design simple machines, cars, and generators.

To find out more information about Project Lead the Way Launch go to www.pltw.org.

We also try to incorporate engineering tasks and challenges in other ways outside of the PLTW curriculum. Each grade level has three engineering challenges that are part of the culminating experience for their science units. These include projects like designing roofs to withstand strong winds, designing devices to communicate over a distance with light and sound, and developing a clean-up system for an oil spill.

Throughout the school year, Benton partners with local businesses and organizations to expose students to STEM related careers and professions. Our fall STEM Showcase allows community members to share STEM interests with our students.

MATH