

# New Life Academy

## STEAM Fair 2019

Dear prospective judge,

We would like to cordially invite you to be a judge at New Life Academy's third annual STEAM Fair on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019. You may have participated in one or more of our past events and we are truly grateful and hope you consider returning again this year. If we are reaching out to you for the first time, please join us in giving NLA students the experience of presenting their self-driven innovation projects and receiving valuable feedback from you. The winners of the STEAM Fair are determined based on judges' scoring and may receive tuition scholarships, gift cards and/or gift certificates at the end of the year's award ceremony from the school's STEAM committee. The guest judges are welcome to recognize exceptional innovations on behalf of themselves or their company, if interested. If you would like to offer certificates, ribbons, gifts or checks at the event or later, please notify us in advance.

Throughout the school year, NLA students in grades 6-12 have been engaged in initiating and developing innovative projects that personally interest them, as part of a unique STEAM program called 15% Innovation Portfolio (IP). They spend 15% of their time in science classes asking questions, problem-solving, researching, designing solutions and troubleshooting. They engage in prototyping, experimentation, testing, redesign and improvements over the course of their education at NLA. While most projects seem to have captured students' interests for about a year, some have continued to grow over several years. Our goal is to encourage initiative, creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, serving hearts and wise stewardship. Many of the student's innovative ideas include some element of humanitarian and/or environmental sustainability.

A few highlights of this year's STEAM program are as follows:

- Our new Robotics Club team competed for the first time in a regional First tech Robotics competition and ranked among the top 5 teams.
- Our new Ecology Club students have established a recycling program at NLA in collaboration with Washington County and school's Operations department.
- The addition of a new 3D printer, laser cutter/engraver were made possible by the generosity of an NLA family. Our students are learning to integrate these technologies into their innovation portfolios.
- Tech Forum evenings provided extra worktime at school, while students had access to resources and teachers beyond their usual school hours. Students shared their work with peers and received feedback in a fun, social setting where free pizza and door prizes added much excitement and energy!
- The new entrepreneurship high school class has been a hit and several students have patent-worthy design ideas.

The projects to be showcased at this year's event are selected by peer review and voting as the most innovative and inspiring ideas. Some projects are the extension of last year's efforts. For your convenience, we have developed a judging rubric that focuses on innovative thinking and uses fair scoring, while allowing students the freedom to explore their topic. You will receive this rubric and other information closer to the date of the event.

**If you are available and willing to be a judge this year, please confirm by emailing me as soon as possible, and provide the following information.** (If you participated last year, we still have your information on file. Feel free to send an update, if needed.)

1. **Your Contact Information:** Name, Title, email address and the best phone number
2. **Your Professional Background and a photograph:** A description of your job, career background, fields of expertise. We will post this information on the judges' board at the fair.
3. **Names and grades of your own students attending our school (if any)**

### **Event Information**

**Date:** Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Time:** 5pm Judges Reception

5:30 – 7pm Exclusive Judging

7-8 pm Doors open to Public viewing and voting. Awards from the judges announced

**Location:** Eagle Court and the Commons

**Address:** New Life Academy, 6758 Bailey Rd, Woodbury, MN 55129

**Dress code:** Business attire. Feel free to wear your business ID badges.

All faculty, administration and staff look forward to hosting you at our campus.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Shay Motalebi

STEAM Coordinator and Engineering Teacher

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