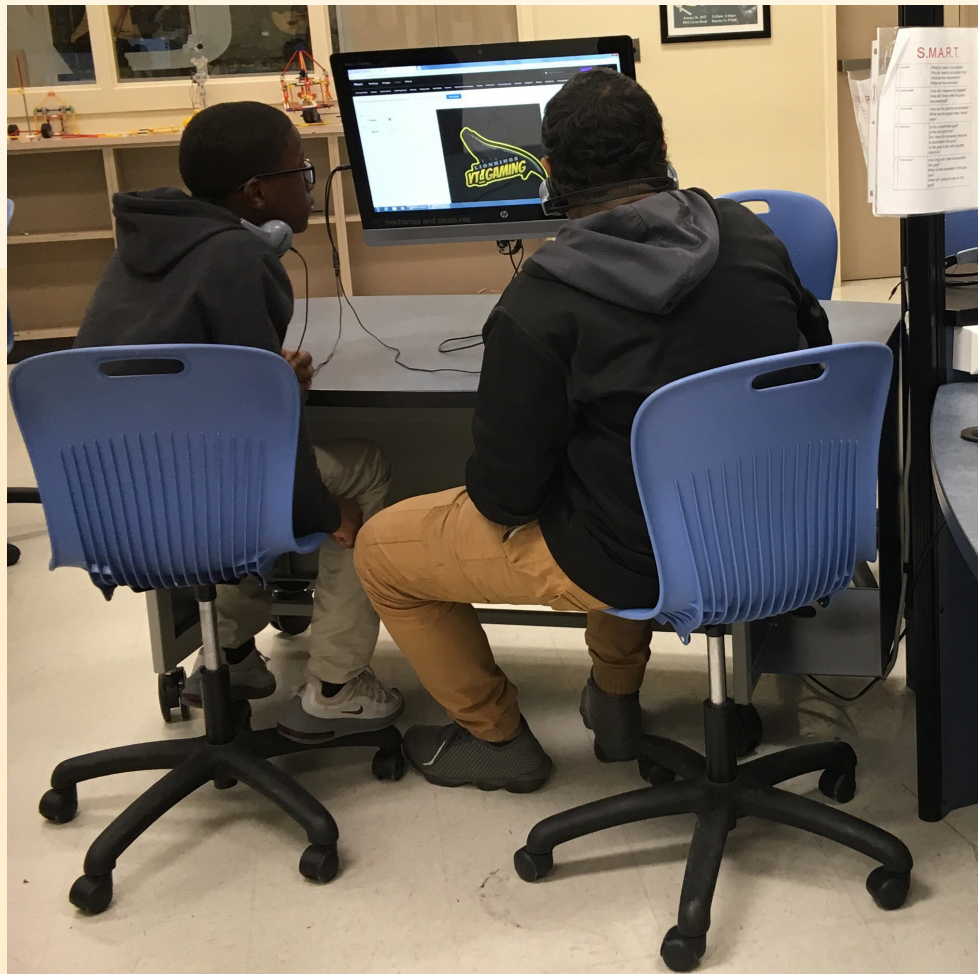




CASE STUDY: JEWELL HOUSTON ACADEMY

GOING BEYOND STEM TO TEACH ESSENTIAL SKILLS



Jewell Houston Academy is part of the Aldine Independent School District, which has numerous award-winning magnet schools that have been nationally and regionally recognized by Magnet Schools of America and Magnet Schools of the Mid-South. The school serves 520 5–6 grade students.

When the team at Jewell Houston Academy, a magnet school in Texas, looked for a STEM program, they wanted one that would not only engage students in STEM careers but could also teach conflict-resolution, problem-solving, collaboration, and communication skills.

They found that solution in a SmartLab HQ.

To learn about the impact the SmartLab has had on the students, we spoke with Alice Hill, Jewell Houston Academy's STEM and SmartLab Facilitator.



SmartLab: How has SmartLab Learning impacted the students?

HILL: One student, in particular, had severe behavioral issues and, after going through every other elective course, she ended up in the SmartLab HQ.

For the first several days, she would come in and sit. She didn't do anything. One day, while she was at the Mechanics and Structures station, I put a couple of pieces of K'NEX in front of her along with the instruction manual.

She sat for a moment and then she snapped the first piece, then the next, and the next—and then she finished it. The young woman got so excited that she ran from one end of the classroom to the other!

Since then, she's become the top programmer in my class and

even taught other students how to use tools like Digital Sandbox.

SmartLab: How has SmartLab Learning impacted the school?

HILL: As a magnet school, a lot of our students use the lottery system to choose to come here because of our STEM program. The SmartLab HQ has really impacted our enrollment. For example, during the first year with the SmartLab HQ, we had 87 students—now, four years later, we have 159 students!

SmartLab: How has SmartLab Learning helped students grow emotionally?

HILL: In our school, some students need help learning to resolve conflict. Sometimes students have conflict because they're in opposition with one another but other times they simply have limited communication skills. In a SmartLab HQ, students learn to be problem-solvers while boosting their communication skills—this helps them learn how to resolve conflicts. Here, they're engaged and on-task. They're thinking, learning, and solving problems.

THE SMARTLAB HQ HAS IMPACTED OUR ENROLLMENT

