

SAM Labs 2024 Educator of the Year: Hannah Rings

Hannah Rings, the recipient of the 2024 SAM Labs Educator of the Year award, stands as a beacon of innovation and dedication in the field of STEM education. Her tireless efforts to integrate SAM Labs technology into her teaching practices have not only enriched the educational experience of her students but also inspired her peers. Hannah teaches 5th and 6th-grade STEM at Canaan Middle School, situated within the [Jonathan Alder Local School District](#) outside of Columbus, Ohio. Throughout her tenure, she has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to fostering a dynamic learning environment where students are encouraged to explore, create, and innovate.



Hannah's nomination for the SAM Labs Educator of the Year award highlighted her exceptional dedication to her role as a STEM teacher. Colleagues and administrators praised her for her innovative approaches to teaching, particularly her adept integration of [SAM Labs](#) into her daily lessons. This did not go unnoticed by the SAM Labs staff, who participated in the voting process. From our dedicated software engineers to our esteemed Advisory Board comprised of former Superintendents, Hannah's nomination collectively stood out to our team.

Harmonizing Nature & Technology: The Hallway Forest Project

One standout example of Hannah's innovative teaching methodology is the Hallway Forest project. Tasked with showcasing their understanding of technology and its real-world applications, students were challenged to create a forest display for the school hallway. Hannah encouraged her students to leverage the knowledge they had gained over the previous nine weeks and incorporate hardware from the SAM Labs [Maker Kits](#) and [Learn to Code Kits](#).



SAM Labs hardware, known for their adaptability and versatility, became integral components of the students' projects. From illuminated clouds and interactive levers to responsive buttons and glowing insects, SAM Blocks were seamlessly integrated into the displays, enriching both the aesthetic appeal and educational value of the projects.



Empowering Students with Future-Ready Skills

What sets Hannah's approach apart is her emphasis on applying STEM concepts to real-world scenarios. Hannah leveraged SAM Blocks and the SAM Blockly coding platform to enhance students' learning experiences and foster critical thinking skills. By connecting classroom learning with tangible, hands-on applications (like the storm clouds pictured above that students coded to flash like lightening with the SAM RGB LEDs), she ensured that her students were not only mastering STEM concepts but also understanding their relevance in everyday life.

Nurturing Future Leaders: Impact on Students and Education

Hannah's dedication to integrating SAM Labs technology into her teaching has had a profound impact on her students and the broader educational community across Jonathan Alder Local School District. By fostering creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving skills, she has empowered her students to become confident, lifelong learners equipped to tackle the challenges of the future. Please join us in celebrating Ms. Hannah Rings our 2024 SAM Labs Educator of the Year!

Interested in exploring SAM Labs STEAM and coding solutions for your school? [Book a demo](#) today!