



Empowering STEAM Educators through Personalized Teacher Support

In August 2022, [Jefferson County School District](#) in West Virginia, embarked on a transformative journey with SAM Labs to enhance its STEAM curriculum across 10 elementary schools. With a student body of 8,682 across these schools, the need for a dynamic and engaging approach to STEAM education was evident. The partnership with SAM Labs, highlighted by a dedicated visit from their team, marked the beginning of a new era in STEAM education for the district. The visit aimed to lay a solid foundation for both students and teachers, boosting confidence and competence in implementing STEAM lessons effectively. The visit even caught the eye of local newspaper who posted [an article](#) on the STEAM initiatives across Jefferson County elementary schools.

Empowering Teachers and Students: The SAM Labs Approach

Recognizing some teachers' struggles to kickstart their STEAM lessons, SAM Labs provided top-tier support, underscoring their commitment to educational success. Mary, a representative from SAM Labs, alongside the CEO, personally visited classrooms, conducting lessons to instill a robust understanding of STEAM concepts among students and bolster teacher confidence in the curriculum.

"This was an excellent visit. The kids loved the coding and hands-on experience... Mary was fantastic and encouraging." - Jennifer Cannon, T A Lowery Elementary

Objectives: Shaping Future-Ready Learners

The primary goals for integrating SAM Labs in Jefferson County were clear:

1. Equip students with future-ready skills, preparing them for real-world success.
2. Introduce students to STEM and computer science opportunities, setting a strong foundation for secondary education and future careers.
3. Develop computational thinking and problem-solving skills, essential for academic and personal growth.

In a recent report by [Hart Research Associated \(2018\)](#), they found that in an employer survey of 501 business executives, 78% said that critical thinking/analytic reasoning is the most important skill they want in their employees, but they also added that only 34% of college graduates arrive well prepared in critical thinking. [SAM Labs' STEAM solutions](#) are preparing students early-on with the skillsets to fill this gap.

Impact on Student Engagement and Teacher Confidence

The impact of SAM Labs' support was immediately tangible, with teachers witnessing a dramatic shift in student engagement and their own confidence levels:

- **Student Engagement:** Prior to the visit, students had limited exposure to coding. Post-visit, their excitement to dive deeper into STEAM and coding was palpable.
- **Teacher Confidence:** Initially, teachers hesitated to use SAM Labs, fearing they lacked the necessary skills to teach coding effectively. The hands-on demonstrations and lessons significantly improved their confidence, leading to more frequent and competent use of SAM Labs in their classrooms.

Addressing Pain Points: A Comprehensive Support System

SAM Labs' intervention helped overcome key challenges, including classroom management and lesson alignment, providing teachers with strategies to group students effectively and align lessons with their instructional goals. The comprehensive support from the SAM Labs Customer Success team not only made lesson planning more efficient but also ensured that learning objectives were met with greater precision and engagement. The Customer Success team is made up of previous educators available to co-teach, plan a scope & sequence, and be there as a resource and mentor through out the educator's journey.

Community and Parental Support: A Testament to Impact

The enthusiasm for SAM Labs extended beyond the classroom, with parents and the broader community recognizing its value in providing a cutting-edge STEAM education. ***A district parent reached out to SAM Labs CEO, Joachim Horn, on LinkedIn, expressing gratitude for the positive influence on their child's education and that she was so glad her son gets this as part of his public education.***

Conclusion: A Future Bright with Possibilities

The partnership between SAM Labs and Jefferson County School District exemplifies the transformative power of dedicated support and innovative resources in education. The visit not only elevated the district's STEAM curriculum but also set a precedent for integrating technology into learning experiences. With an increase in usage from zero to an average of one lesson per week and a commitment to two lessons per month in the FY25 school year, Jefferson County schools are on a promising path to preparing students for the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Want to try SAM Labs in your classroom or district? [Schedule a free trial](#) to get started.