



From STEM to STEAM - A Collaboration of Talent

Target Audience: Elementary classroom teachers

Presenters: Marie Hill, Nichole Legrant, Laura Irmis

We are better together! Join the Arts and STEM teachers from Jamerson Elementary as we share simple ways to turn favorite STEM based literature into hands-on, STEAM engineering units for the classroom and parent involvement events. Books to include: *Those Darn Squirrels!* By Adam Rubin and Daniel Salmieri, *What About Moose?* By Corey Rosen Schwartz and Rebecca J. Gomez, *The Mitten* by Jan Brett, *Rumble in the Jungle* by Giles Andreae, and *CatStronauts*, the graphic novel, by Drew Brockington.

Biographies:

Laura Irmis is a professional artist and art educator. Over the years she has taught art in numerous age groups. She been an educator for adults, high school students, teaching AP, 2D and 3D art, plus kindergarten through fifth grade. Currently she enjoys teaching at Jamerson Elementary, a magnet school for engineering.

She graduated with her B.A. in visual arts from Eckerd Collage but because of her love for teaching, she became certified as an art teacher in Pinellas County and now teaches at her own son's school. Growing up in this county she has extensive experience and relationships with local museums and the art community.

In her free time, she continues to create 3D artwork and serves on the board for Pinellas County Art Educators where she presents and teaches at state-wide conferences.

Nichole LeGrant is a graduate of Saint Petersburg College and received a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education K-6. She received her master's degree from Strayer University in Educational Leadership. She is born and raised in Saint Petersburg, Florida. She is currently the STEM Coordinator at Douglas L. Jamerson, Jr. Elementary School Center of Mathematics and Engineering where she has been working for the past thirteen years. She has written proposals and been accepted into conferences at NSTA where she presented STEAM related curriculum based on children's literature. She has provided professional development to teachers in Pinellas County schools in the content areas of math and science. She has written integrated engineering curriculum for the school and for the district. She was also Jamerson Teacher of the Year in 2020.

Marie Hill graduated with a BME from Florida Southern College and has been a music educator for 32 years. She grew up in Pinellas County on a heavy diet of all things NASA and the Arts. These two passions are the perfect combination for her current school, Douglas L. Jamerson, Jr. Elementary- Center for Mathematics and Engineering. At Jamerson, Marie integrates STEAM concepts into her general music K-5, World Drumming, Elementary Band, and Elementary Chorus. She has developed and presented workshops on STEAM concepts and on creative classroom management on a local, state, and national level. She was also a lead of the STEAM component in the Elevate ARTS Grant. This five-year federal grant was a professional development program designed to equip, support, and retain Arts educators in the most challenged elementary and middle schools in Pinellas County, Florida. In 2019, Marie was awarded the Ray Lien Outstanding Aerospace Educator Award at the SUN 'n FUN Aerospace Educators' Workshop. Currently, Marie is enjoying working with the Jamerson primary teachers as they develop and present musicals with related STEAM lessons based on Children's literature. Marie and her husband, Roger, have two sons. The youngest participates in the FIRST Robotics FTC league and plays trumpet in the high school band. Her oldest is loving life as a Mechanical Engineering major at UF and participates in Gator Motorsports and the Gator Band. Her family can often be seen in the high school parking lot, looking to the east, during rocket launches from the Cape.