**Project Details**

**Lead District:** East Baton Rouge Parish School System  
**Partner District:** Zachary Community School District  
**Higher Education Partner:** Louisiana State University (LSU)  
**Federal Funds Received:** $555,000 (three years)  
**Participating schools:** Belfair Montessori, Broadmoor Elementary, Buchanan Elementary, Capitol Elementary, Ducfroq Elementary, Forest Heights Elementary, Glen Oaks Park Elementary, Greenbrier Elementary, Scotlandville Elementary, University Terrace Elementary, Villa Del Rey Elementary, Westdale Heights Academic Magnet, Westminster Elementary, Zachary Elementary

**Science, Mathematics and Literacy Across the Curriculum**

While there may be instances of distinct topics that rely primarily on one subject or another, most topics have many cross connections to all subject areas. Project AIMS instructors were careful to illustrate those connections, helping teachers use their classroom time more wisely by combining some of the Grade Level Expectations and illustrating the interconnections. To facilitate learning in these content areas, Project AIMS teachers used journals to record their observations, insights and new learnings for ready reference during the instruction and for use as a refresher during the academic year. Foldables, which are creative ways to illustrate various topics and content, were also used to reinforce learning with direct applications to everyday classroom work.

Interactive, competitive games and learning strategies proved that mathematics and science could indeed be a FUN learning experience, dispelling the common myth of “I’m not good in math and science!” Through the use of mathematics-based games, participants had the experience of actually enjoying math while delving more deeply into the content and learning at conceptual levels. In the science activities, teachers used the skills and strategies of scientists to investigate, solve problems and answer questions.
Learning Outside the Classroom Walls: A Day at the Zoo

Have you ever been on a scavenger hunt at the zoo? Our Project AIMS teachers have! While many of us only think of the zoo as a great place to bring the family on a sunny Saturday afternoon, there is much more going on at the zoo than entertainment! Project AIMS instructors take going to the zoo to a whole new level! Science is evident throughout the zoo, particularly “behind the scenes.” Project AIMS teachers participated in activities including classifications, adaptations, and comparisons of a wide variety of animal attributes, behaviors and habitats. Through these activities, the participants were exposed to a rich learning environment filled with information that could easily be applied in the classroom. Literacy applications were also evident and incorporated throughout the visit.

LaHouse Visit Opens a Whole New World of Technology to Project AIMS Participants

LaHouse, a project of the LSU AgCenter, was the focal point of a field trip taken by Project AIMS teachers. This extraordinary site provides the latest information on sustainable home building and backyard gardening. Not only were the Project AIMS teachers treated to a tour of the home and garden, but they were also provided a wealth of information on best building and gardening practices, along with the scientific explanations teachers need to connect to their students’ Grade Level Expectations. The wide variety of materials and numerous options of home designs highlighted the power of individual choice and the need to make informed decisions. AIMS teachers learned that many factors – from the placement of a home, to the type of doors, insulation, windows, etc. – all contribute to whether a home will be an energy hog or energy efficient. They left LaHouse with new perspectives on the latest technologies available to lessen our carbon footprint and live healthier lives as a result. Literature connections to the visit included “The Reason for a Flower,” “Pass the Energy Please,” and “Tale of Two Species.”

Project Quotes

“This is an amazing program. I have participated in this program for the last three years. I have encouraged other teachers from my school to participate. It opens the door to a world of new ideas of how to address math and science content.”

“I have learned a lot about how math and science work together and how math and science can be taught together throughout the course of the school day.”

“I am so excited about all of the concepts I learned during the 3 weeks here. I can’t wait to share with my students!”

“I have a deeper understanding of some mathematical concepts, and I learned new strategies for teaching both math and science.”

“I learned ample activities to help me improve my teaching skills. I also expanded my knowledge of using hands on materials.”

“Everyone’s thoughts and opinions were able to be heard. We were able to learn from each other. Through conversations and professional materials, we were able to further enhance ourselves as professionals.”

“The entire project has provided me with the most professional development throughout my teaching career. All instructors were very knowledgeable and expressed a genuine love of math and science. Their passions rubbed off on me.”