

CREATIVITY COMES TO LIFE WITH 3D PRINTING

There is something special about seeing a child's eyes light up when they discover something new. That excitement was on full display as campers stepped into our STEM room and were introduced to the fascinating world of 3D printing.

From the moment students walked through the door, they were greeted by our 3D printers hard at work and a collection of sample creations already printed. Their reactions were priceless. Smiles quickly spread across their faces as they picked up and examined the different models, asking questions like, "How did you make this?" and "Can I create my own?" The room was immediately filled with excitement, wonder, and curiosity. One of the greatest joys as an instructor is watching students realize that technology is not just something they use, but something they can create with.

Throughout the week, campers learned the basics of 3D design and discovered how an idea can go from imagination to reality. Our younger campers began by creating their own unique characters. They explored shapes, colors, and design elements while learning foundational STEM concepts in a fun and engaging way. It was amazing to watch their personalities come through in their creations as they customized each character to make it their own. Meanwhile, our older campers took on a more advanced challenge by designing original artwork from scratch. Using 3D modeling software, they learned how to think like designers and engineers, carefully planning and building their creations piece by piece. What started as simple shapes on a computer screen gradually transformed into unique digital designs ready for printing.

Beyond learning about 3D printing, students developed important skills such as creativity, problem-solving, critical thinking, and perseverance. They learned that great designs often require experimentation, adjustments, and patience. Every challenge became an opportunity to learn something new. Perhaps the most rewarding part of the week was seeing students proudly share their designs with friends and instructors. The excitement on their faces showed that they were not just creating objects, they were building confidence in their ability to imagine, design, and innovate.

At West Valley Summer Camp, we believe that today's young creators are tomorrow's innovators, and Week 1 was a reminder that sometimes all it takes is a 3D printer and a little imagination to inspire a lifelong love for imagining and creating.

