

WELCOME TO THE LOUNGE (OR AS SOME CAMPERS CALL IT... THE AURA ROOM!)

One of the newest and most exciting additions to camp this summer is **The Lounge**, a special hangout space designed just for our Red Group (4th & 5th Grades) and Blue Group (Middle School) campers. Whether campers are looking for friendly competition, a place to relax, or simply a chance to spend time with friends, The Lounge has quickly become a favorite destination on campus.

Inside, campers can enjoy a variety of activities, including **air hockey**, **shuffleboard**, **foosball**, **giant UNO**, **Jenga**, **card games**, **comfortable couches**, and plenty of other games to keep the fun going. We're even hoping to add a **Nintendo Switch** on the big-screen TV, making The Lounge an even more exciting place to be!

We asked a few campers what they thought about the new space. **Marcus**, who has attended camp for three years, shared that camp has never had anything quite like this before. "I really like all the games here. It's neat," he said. When asked about his favorite activity, Marcus couldn't choose between air hockey and shuffleboard. **Elsie** enjoys keeping things simple. "I like playing with the cards on the carpet." **Natalie** summed up one of the best parts of The Lounge: "It's a fun place to hang out with your friends." **Hannah** described the vibe perfectly: "It's just chill, you know?" **Colette's** favorite feature? "Couches." And when we asked Chloe, she reminded us of another important reason to visit: "I just love that **Iowa** (Mr. Jorgenson) is here!"

At the end of the day, The Lounge is more than just a room full of games, it's a place where friendships grow, laughter is shared, and campers can enjoy some well-earned downtime between all of the exciting camp activities. We can't wait to see all the memories that are made there this summer!

Come see what all the excitement is about in The Lounge!



**West Valley
Christian School**
College Prep From Preschool

BUILDING MORE THAN AN E-BIKE: STEM CAMPERS LEARN THROUGH HANDS-ON ENGINEERING

One of the highlights of the first week of **STEM** was watching our campers take on an exciting engineering challenge, building an E-Bike together.

At first glance, students may have seen a collection of parts, tools, and instructions. But as the project began, they quickly realized they were participating in something much bigger than simply assembling a bike. They were learning valuable STEM skills through a hands-on experience that required **teamwork, critical thinking, creativity, and perseverance**. Working together, campers learned how different components fit together and how electrical systems play a vital role in an E-Bike's operation.

They explored electrical connections, discussed how power moves through the system, and discovered the importance of following a process carefully. Along the way, they asked questions, tested ideas, and solved problems as they arose. One of the most encouraging aspects of the project was seeing students collaborate. Building an E-Bike is not a one-person task. It required **communication, cooperation, and a willingness** to help one another. Students learned that successful engineering often happens when people work together, share ideas, and support each other toward a common goal. The project also challenged campers to think critically. Not every piece fit perfectly on the first try, and not every step was easy. Students had to slow down, analyze the problem, and determine the best solution before moving forward. These moments often became the most valuable learning opportunities.



One student summed up the experience perfectly when he said, "It was challenging, but it was a good challenge."

That simple statement captures what STEM education is all about. Real learning often happens when students are pushed beyond their comfort zones and encouraged to tackle something new.

Through challenges, students develop confidence, resilience, and the belief that they can solve problems as they arise. As instructors, we found it rewarding to watch campers move from uncertainty to accomplishment. What seemed difficult at the beginning of the week gradually became achievable as they gained new knowledge and worked together as a team. Every completed step brought a sense of pride and excitement as they saw their project taking shape.

Projects like the E-Bike challenge help students understand that STEM is more than science, technology, engineering, and mathematics it is about learning to **think, collaborate, and persist** through challenges. These are skills that will benefit them far beyond the classroom.

Week 1 gave our campers a glimpse into the world of engineering, and they embraced the challenge with enthusiasm. We are proud of their hard work and look forward to seeing them continue to grow as **builders, problem-solvers, and innovators** throughout the rest of the summer. Sometimes the most valuable thing students build is not the project itself, but the confidence they gain from discovering that they can do hard things.



CREATIVITY COMES TO LIFE WITH 3D PRINTING

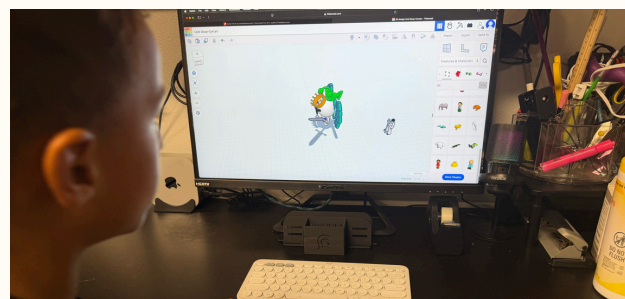
There is something special about seeing a child's eyes light up when they discover something new. That excitement was on full display as campers stepped into our STEM room and were introduced to the fascinating world of 3D printing.

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.



UNIVERSAL STUDIOS FIELD TRIP

Excited squeals, wide smiles, and cotton candy covered hands were not in short supply on our field trip to Universal Studios this past Thursday! Our campers conquered intimidating rollercoasters, such as "Revenge of the Mummy", and experienced immersive rides, such as "Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey".

Green group campers, consisting of incoming second and third graders, were especially brave, unanimously deciding on the fastest ride as their first ride by chanting, "Mummy! Mummy! Mummy!". Fans of the Harry Potter books and movies were able to try butterbeer as a slush or a soda, the perfect way to cool down on a warm day like Thursday. Despite the heat, the campers' energy did not deplete; skipping, jumping, and running around the park as if it was the beginning of the day. A few campers even opted to take the daunting stairs, in lieu of the escalators, from the Lower Lot to the Upper Lot. Clearly, the entertainment that Universal Studios provides serves as one of the most enticing forms of exercise.

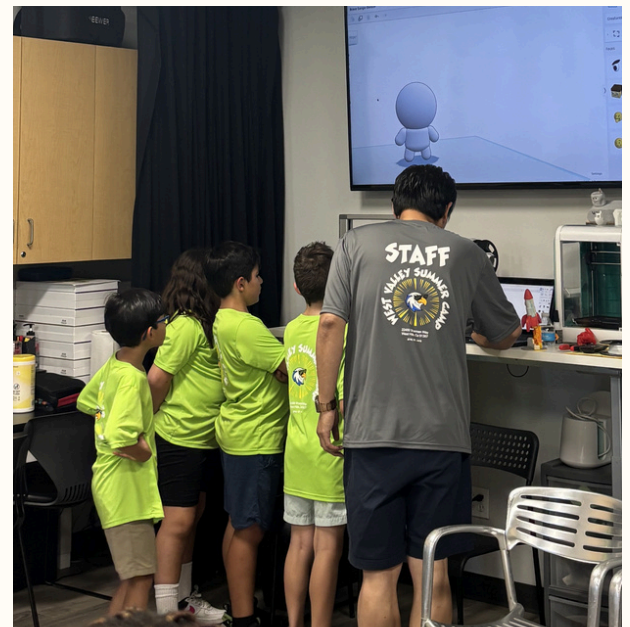
The campers had so much fun boarding a variety of rides, enjoying different attractions, and spending time with their friends and counselors! Universal Studios is only the beginning to the many fun, engaging field trips West Valley Summer Camp has to offer.





WEEK 1 RECAP

The first week of West Valley Summer Camp 2026 was a blast! The week was filled with fun activities, blossoming friendships, and plenty of sunny weather. The campers got to know each other through interactive games and were able to acquire real-world applicable knowledge in STEM sessions. On Tuesday, the red group had a walking trip to Sugarbox, the donuts shop near campus. On Wednesday, the blue group walked to McDonald's for lunch. Both groups returned to campus post-walking-trip, happy and with their hunger satiated. Thursday means field trips, and this Thursday, our campers had the opportunity to visit Universal Studios! They went on rides and observed recreations of settings from their favorite movies. The week ended with a splash! Campers watched Lilo and Stitch before lunch and had water play after lunch. They ended the day with an ice cream in hand, swim clothes drenched in water, and a joyful anticipation for week 2.



KIDS LOVE THE LEGO ROOM! IT IS THE PLACE TO BE!

For our Yellow Group campers, one of the most exciting places on campus is the LEGO Room! Packed with creativity, imagination, and endless opportunities for fun, this colorful space has quickly become a camper favorite.

Inside the LEGO Room, campers can build towering castles, create imaginative worlds, race cars, play with dinosaurs, put on puppet shows, construct with building blocks, and of course, spend plenty of time creating with LEGOs. No matter where you look, there's always something exciting happening!

We asked some of our Yellow Group campers what they love most about the LEGO Room: Riley enjoys building with friends. "I like to build buildings with my best friend." Ellie loves pretending and creating. "I like to cook." Amara shared that her favorite part is simple: "Playing with my friends." Emma, Cash, Dean, and Noah all had a similar answer: "LEGOs!" Eleanor loves building castles, while Matthew enjoys just about everything, including the ducks, dinosaurs, building blocks, and all the fun toys throughout the room.

We also caught up with one of the Yellow Group counselors, "Bubbles," who described the LEGO Room as a place full of excitement and activity. "There's always so much fun happening in here. Everyone is moving around, building, creating, and playing with something. It's one of the kids' favorite places to go."

In fact, according to Bubbles, when campers hear it's time for the LEGO Room, they get so excited that they practically race through the door to start playing with their favorite toys!

Whether they're building castles, creating new adventures, making friends, or simply letting their imaginations run wild, the LEGO Room is a place where creativity comes to life every single day.

One thing is for sure—the LEGO Room is building memories that will last long after summer ends!



ROCKET LAUNCHER CHALLENGE BRINGS ENGINEERING AND EXCITEMENT TO THE BLUE AND RED GROUPS

The STEM Lab was filled with energy, cheers, and friendly competition this week as our Blue and Red Group campers took part in one of the most exciting challenges of the summer so far, the 3D-Printed Rocket Launcher Challenge!

Using a specially designed launcher, campers tested their aim, focus, and problem-solving skills by launching Nerf-style foam projectiles at a variety of targets. While the activity was packed with excitement, it also introduced students to important STEM concepts, including trajectory, force, distance, accuracy, and engineering design.

The first challenge was a Moving Target Competition. Each student was given three opportunities to hit a moving target from different distances. Campers quickly learned that hitting a target is much more difficult when the distance changes. They had to adjust their aim, calculate timing, and think strategically with each shot. Every successful hit earned points for their team, creating an exciting atmosphere as teammates cheered one another on and celebrated every score.

The second challenge raised the stakes even higher. Teams competed in the Cup Tower Knockdown Challenge, where students used the launcher to knock down towers of stacked cups. This challenge required both power and precision as campers worked together to determine the best angle and strategy to bring down the entire structure. Every shot was met with anticipation, followed by cheers whenever a tower came crashing down.

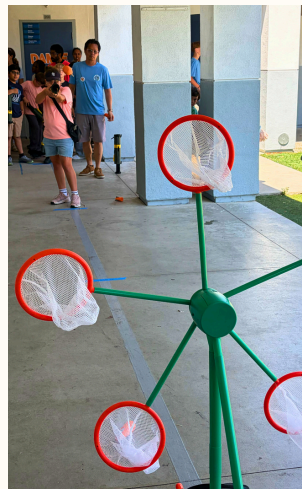


The week featured an intense rivalry between the Blue and Red Groups. Both teams showed tremendous teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the competition. Students encouraged one another, celebrated successes, and learned from missed shots as they refined their techniques.

When the final scores were tallied, the Red Group emerged victorious in both competitions, winning the Moving Target Challenge and the Cup Tower Knockdown Challenge. Their combination of teamwork, focus, and accurate shooting helped secure the win. The Blue Group, however, put up a tremendous fight and demonstrated excellent perseverance throughout every round.

Beyond the competition, campers experienced firsthand how STEM can be exciting, interactive, and full of discovery. Activities like these help students see the connection between science, engineering, and real-world problem-solving while having an incredible amount of fun.

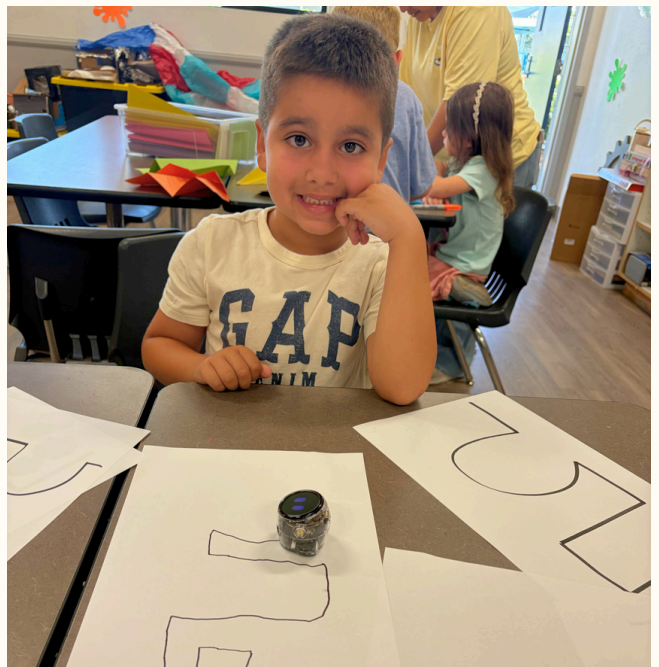
Week 2 was a fantastic reminder that learning often happens best when students are challenged, engaged, and encouraged to think creatively. We are proud of all our campers for their enthusiasm, teamwork, and willingness to try something new. We cannot wait to see what exciting STEM adventures await in the weeks ahead!



CREATIVITY, DISCOVERY, AND HANDS-ON INNOVATION FOR OUR YELLOW AND GREEN GROUPS

Week 2 in the STEM Lab at West Valley Summer Camp was filled with excitement, creativity, and hands-on learning as our Yellow and Green Group campers explored science, engineering, and technology through fun and engaging activities. One of the highlights of the week was our Slime Science Lab, where campers became junior scientists by mixing ingredients, observing chemical reactions, and creating their very own slime. As they experimented with different textures and consistencies, students learned that science is not just something found in textbooks; it is something they can touch, create, and explore. The room was filled with laughter, curiosity, and plenty of stretchy, squishy slime creations.

Campers also participated in our Paper Airplane Engineering Challenge. While folding a paper airplane may seem simple, students quickly discovered that engineering and design play a big role in how an airplane performs. Through trial and testing, they learned how different wing shapes and designs affect distance, accuracy, and gliding ability. Some planes were built like sleek darts for speed and long-distance flights, while others featured wider wings designed to stay in the air longer and glide smoothly. Students made adjustments, tested their designs, and learned valuable lessons about problem-solving, observation, and continuous improvement just like real aerospace engineers.



Another exciting activity involved working with an AI-powered robot that could follow paths created by the campers themselves. Students designed tracks and routes, then watched with excitement as the robot successfully navigated the paths they had drawn. This activity introduced campers to important STEM concepts, including robotics, artificial intelligence, sequencing, and logical thinking, in a way that was both accessible and fun. Seeing their own designs come to life as the robot followed each twist and turn sparked creativity and inspired many future engineers and inventors.

Throughout the week, our Yellow and Green Group campers demonstrated incredible curiosity, teamwork, and imagination. Whether they were experimenting with slime, testing paper airplane designs, or guiding AI robots along custom tracks, students were learning that STEM is about asking questions, solving problems, and creating something new. It has been a joy to watch our campers explore, discover, and build with confidence. Week 2 reminded us that even the simplest projects can inspire big ideas, and we are excited to see what our young innovators will create next!

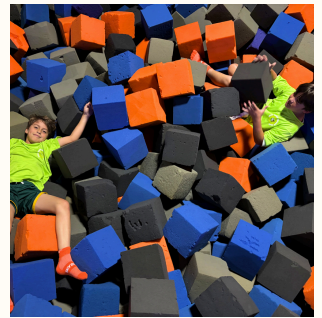


JUMPING INTO WEEK 2! SKY ZONE FIELD TRIP

Campers were reaching new heights at our week 2 field trip to Sky Zone! Upon arrival, campers were giddy with excitement, the doors of Sky Zone opening up to a world in which trampolines, foam pits, and landing pads are the sole flooring options. Several bright orange grip-socks later, campers and counselors alike took to the floors. From the classic square trampolines to the more complex obstacle courses, there were endless opportunities to jump.

Some sports-inclined campers challenged each other on the spring floor basketball court, the trampoline-lined dodgeball arena, and the foam jousting area. The thrill-seekers took turns on the zipline, the giant swing, and the mat slide, a series of attractions based on the adrenaline caused by being launched into the safety of a foam pit or landing pad. Longer trampoline tracks were utilized as a stage for our camp gymnasts and trampoline trick enthusiasts.

Although the period of jumping eventually came to an end, this year's Sky Zone field trip can be reminisced about fondly through memories of anti-gravity hair, yellow group campers' dunking basketballs, and the feeling of climbing, seemingly slow-motion, out of a foam pit.



LARGE SLUSHIES, GLITTER DUMPLINGS, AND BOBA ORDERS: WEEK 2 WALKING TRIPS WITH RED AND BLUE GROUP

This past Tuesday, our red group campers took a trip to the nearby Ralphs and ampm. Campers walked through the aisles of Ralphs in search of their dream meal. Some hunted for deals, finding 4 boxes of Mike & Ike's for \$5 or soda in the clearance section. Others got creative by purchasing an organized three-course meal complete with sushi, chocolate cake, and a sugary drink. A few campers were very thoughtful, buying gifts or cards for their dads in preparation for the upcoming Father's Day weekend.

Many red group campers opted to save their remaining funds for the goods that ampm could offer. Post-Ralphs, the campers filed into the ampm in hopes of buying giant slushies, finding glitter dumplings, and watching hot dogs roast under a heat lamp. All missions proved bountiful, not a single camper walking back to the summer camp campus disappointed or empty handed.



On Wednesday, the blue group took a walk to the Fallbrook Center, a nearby shopping center. Although the duration of the walk was lengthy, it felt brief, filled with amusing conversation and the thrill of exercise. There were a variety of places to eat, shop, and explore, so the campers split up into groups. They visited Wing Stop and Jersey Mike's for lunch, It's Boba Time or Menchie's for dessert, and ended the trip with a much needed visit to Five Below. By the end of the trip, campers' hunger for both food and Five Below chotskies had been satiated, and they headed back to campus with new memories.

The week 2 walking field trips immersed the campers in a real-life shopping experience. They practiced assessing their budget and spending accordingly. They determined which items were most important to them, if they were accommodated by the amount of cash they possessed, and made their purchases. While a few campers prioritized snacks, some preferred trendy items, and others got a mix of both, the general consensus was that it is important to budget your money accordingly to get the items you want and need. The combination of physical activity and the exciting places the campers get to explore is the perfect recipe for a fun day at camp for our upper grade campers!



ART WITH MRS. BOND

This week in Art Camp, our Yellow, Green, Red, and Blue groups had a wonderful time creating beautiful butterfly masterpieces!

Students began by following along with Mrs. Bond as she demonstrated each step of the drawing process. Using pencil, campers carefully sketched their butterflies before tracing over their lines with Sharpie to make their designs bold and vibrant.

Next came everyone's favorite part—coloring! Students used oil pastels to bring their butterflies to life, choosing their own unique color combinations and creative designs. Once the butterflies were complete, campers used watercolors to paint beautiful backgrounds, selecting color schemes that made each artwork truly one of a kind.

The creativity, focus, and imagination displayed by our young artists was incredible to see. Mrs. Bond loved reconnecting with familiar faces from previous summers while also spending time with many of her beloved school-year students. It has been such a joy to kick off another exciting summer together, and she can't wait for all the artistic adventures still to come!

We are so proud of our talented campers and look forward to sharing more of their amazing creations throughout the summer!



MORNING MADNESS WITH PANDA!

Every great camp day needs an exciting start! And that is exactly what happens each morning at **9:00 a.m.** during **Morning Madness!** Led by our very own Nathan, better known around camp as **Panda**, this high-energy 30-minute celebration gets campers moving, laughing, cheering, and ready for everything the day has in store.

With music pumping, games underway, and Panda bringing the excitement, Morning Madness helps campers shake off the sleepy summer morning feeling and jump right into camp mode. From classic favorites like **Sharks and Minnows** to interactive games like **Mingle**, there is always something happening for every age group.

Austin, in third grade, describes Morning Madness as **"fun and exciting,"** and Geny, in seventh, loves the **unique games** that keep everyone engaged. With something new to enjoy each day, Morning Madness gives campers a chance to laugh, play, and start their morning with great energy!

One of the best parts of Morning Madness is seeing campers from every group come together. **Younger campers** and **middle schoolers** alike get the chance to play side by side, encourage one another, and share in the fun. Panda shared that it has been amazing to watch older campers jump into games with younger campers, a reminder of the **special community** that camp creates.

Panda keeps the details of upcoming surprises safely **"in the vault,"** so campers will have to show up at 9:00 a.m. to find out what is next!

Music up. Energy high. Morning Madness starts at 9:00!



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BUTTON UP! CAMPERS ARE COLLECTING SUMMER ADVENTURES!

At Summer Camp, every week brings new memories, and now campers have a fun way to celebrate them! Our exciting **Camp Button Program** gives students the chance to collect buttons for completing weeks of camp and participating in special bucket-list activities along the way.

Campers proudly earned their **Week 1** and **Week 2** buttons, and this week they will add their **Week 3 button** to their growing collection! Each numbered button represents another week filled with friendships, laughter, new experiences, and unforgettable summer fun. Campers who complete all eight weeks will earn the ultimate honor: the special **Camp Legend** button!

The fun does not stop with weekly buttons! Campers can also earn special activity buttons by participating in unique camp experiences. So far, students have earned buttons for making slime, designing and flying paper airplanes, competing in laser tag, and taking on an exciting boat-building challenge. Our young engineers put their skills to the test by designing boats that could carry weight and still float, earning a special Boat Builder button when they completed the challenge!

Every button tells a story. Whether campers are building, creating, racing, exploring, or competing, they are collecting more than buttons, they are collecting memories, confidence, friendships, and the excitement of trying something new.

Keep an eye out for the buttons coming home each week, and get ready to see what adventure campers will unlock next!

**Build It. Fly It. Film It. Race It. Play It. Create It.
Explore It. Discover It.**

**Every Week, Try Something New. Every Day,
Discover Something Different.**



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BOAT BUILDERS SET SAIL!

Week 3 of STEM made a huge splash as our campers took on the exciting Boat Builders Challenge! Armed with just two sheets of aluminum foil, six plastic straws, and six rubber bands, each team was challenged to design and build a boat that could hold as many blocks as possible before sinking.

The room was filled with excitement as campers quickly discovered that building a successful boat takes more than luck. They had to think like real engineers, planning, testing, redesigning, and working together to create a boat that was both stable and strong. Every design was unique, and it was incredible to watch their creativity come to life.

The competition became more intense with every round as campers carefully stacked block after block onto their floating creations. Cheers erupted around the room each time a boat held just one more block than expected! The Green Group rose to the top with an incredible performance. One camper built an outstanding boat that held an astonishing 61 blocks before finally reaching its limit! It was an impressive display of creativity, problem solving, and engineering that had everyone amazed.

While the competition was exciting, the best part was seeing every camper engaged and having fun. Our younger campers especially loved the opportunity to splash, experiment, and simply enjoy playing with water while learning. Yes, the STEM room got a little wet, but seeing smiling faces, laughter, and excitement made every drop worth it!

Beyond the fun, campers learned valuable lessons about engineering, buoyancy, teamwork, and creative problem-solving. They discovered that even with the same materials, different ideas can produce very different results. It was inspiring to watch them test their designs, make improvements, and celebrate one another's successes.

The Boat Builders Challenge reminded our campers that STEM is all about exploring ideas, learning from failures, thinking creatively, and never being afraid to try something new. We are so proud of every camper who embraced the challenge with enthusiasm, teamwork, and determination.

Here's to another unforgettable week of learning, laughter, and hands-on discovery. We can't wait to see what exciting STEM adventure awaits in Week 4!



THE AMAZING WORLD OF ROBOTICS!

Campers stepped into the exciting world of robotics, where technology, creativity, and imagination came together for an incredible hands-on STEM experience.

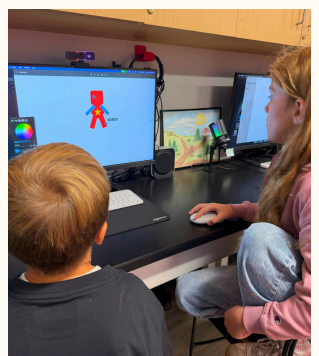
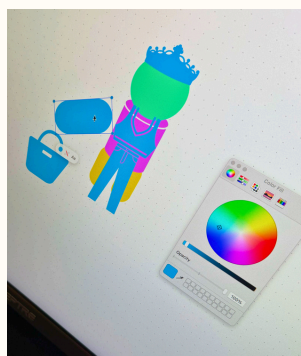
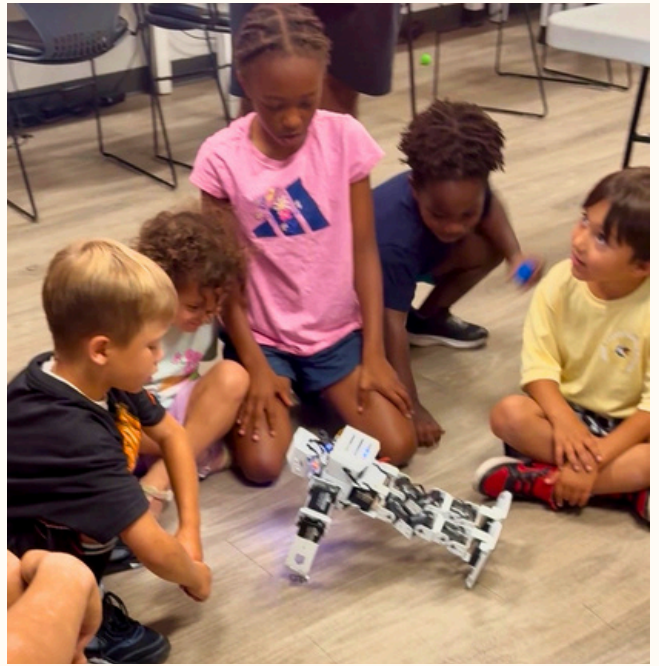
Campers had the opportunity to explore and interact with several of the robots in our growing Discovery Lab. One of the biggest highlights was getting to control our humanoid robots, which amazed everyone with their impressive abilities. With just a few commands, the robots could perform push-ups, sit-ups, dance, kick a ball, walk, and complete many other exciting movements. Watching these robots move like people gave campers a glimpse into the incredible future of robotics and artificial intelligence.

But the fun didn't stop there! Campers also became robot designers by using computers to create and customize their very own virtual robots. They experimented with different designs and features, learning that robotics isn't just about controlling machines, it's about using creativity, engineering, and problem-solving to bring new ideas to life.

Adding even more excitement to the day was the newest member of the West Valley Robot Family, our amazing four-legged robotic companion! This agile robot captured everyone's attention as it walked, turned, balanced, and moved just like a real four-legged animal. Campers had the chance to operate the robot themselves, trying out its different functions and seeing firsthand how advanced modern robotics has become.

The Discovery Lab was filled with smiles, curiosity, and plenty of "Wow!" moments as campers explored technology that many had never experienced before. Beyond just playing with robots, they were introduced to concepts in engineering, programming, design, and innovation, inspiring them to consider the endless possibilities of STEM.

At West Valley Christian School Summer Camp, we're committed to giving campers experiences that spark curiosity and prepare them for tomorrow's world. Whether building, designing, programming, or controlling robots, our campers are discovering that the future isn't something to wait for; it's something they can help create. We can't wait to introduce even more exciting technology and STEM adventures as our Discovery Lab continues to grow!

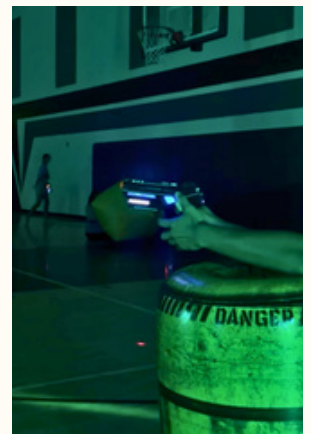
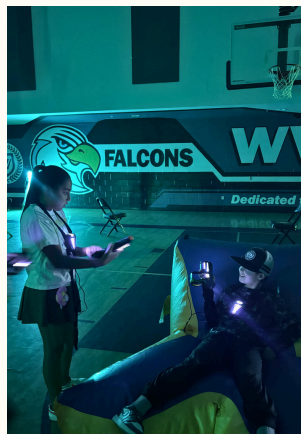


LASER TAG FUN AT CAMP!

Laser tag at West Valley Summer Camp is literally and figuratively a blast! Each color group began in the connecting place. Campers were briefed on their mission, informed of their guidelines, and, finally, donned their battle gear. The goal of the operation: to accurately aim the laser tag device at the players of the opposing teams and to prevent oneself from being caught in the same fashion.

Campers entered the gym, which had been transformed into a vast laser tag arena, complete with inflatable obstacles and neon color-changing lights. The campers ran in, strategizing with teammates and preparing for the combat ahead. Teams huddled together, planning which spot they could begin in, how they could move about the arena, and whether or not they would divide their forces. As the games began, some campers were stationed behind obstacles, only peeking out to aim at opponents before quickly ducking back in. Others chose to employ a more bold strategy, immediately running around the gym, aiming at those who were hidden and those who were not.

The strategic minds of all of the campers, from Yellow Group to Blue Group, was an amazing sight to witness. Laser tag is a great game for campers to practice tactical planning, teamwork, and quick thinking. Even while caught up in the intensity of battle, campers were smiling and having fun the entire time!



THRILLS & CHILLS: SIX FLAGS FIELD TRIP

The looping rollercoasters, fast bumper cars, and spinning swings are what make Six Flags: Magic Mountain the Thrill Capital of the World. For our field trip this past week, our campers were able to experience these thrills firsthand. The campers were split into groups based on which rides they were interested in boarding. From the Looney Ballooneys in Bugs Bunny World to rides such as X2 and Drop of Doom, there were a wide range of attractions to choose from.

The field trip gave campers the opportunity to try new things if they chose to! Green group's Austin and Tucker decided to ride Twisted Colossus for the first time and loved it so much that they went on it again! Many campers chose to cool off from the summer heat with Dippin' Dots or on a water ride. Jet Stream and Roaring Rapids, for example, were very popular choices that day. Racecar-loving campers were excited to ride West Coast Racers and comic book enthusiasts enjoyed the Battle for Metropolis ride.

One of the most heartwarming parts of the trip was witnessing the campers' interaction with each other while waiting in line. They showed great attitudes, entertaining themselves with games and conversation and looking forward to the ride ahead. They formed bonds in their shared experiences and conquered fears by broadening their thrill threshold. Magic Mountain was filled with laughter, excitement, and post-coaster exhilaration, the traits of a great field trip!



ART WITH MRS. BOND

Continuing with our butterfly theme this summer, the Yellow Group created the most beautiful butterflies using coffee filters, pipe cleaners, markers, and water. Students had so much fun watching the colors blend and spread across their butterflies, making each one completely unique.

While creating their artwork, campers practiced important developmental skills including fine motor coordination, creativity, following multi-step directions, focus, and decision-making. Activities like these also help strengthen hand muscles needed for writing while encouraging self-expression and confidence.

It was such a joy to see the students' excitement as their colorful butterflies came to life. Mrs. Bond loved spending the week creating with this group and can't wait to see what the rest of the summer has in store!



OCEAN CURIOSITIES AT THE AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

Campers went “under the sea” on our field trip to the Aquarium of the Pacific! The aquarium boasted a rainbow collage of fish, sea otters, starfish, and more. Campers were immediately interested in the many brightly colored exhibits the aquarium had to offer, quickly splitting into their color groups to explore.

One exhibit, titled “Jellyfish Dreamscapes”, displayed a broad diversity of jellyfish species. The jellyfish size range was drastic, some were the size of a pencil eraser, while others were as large as a grapefruit. The exhibit was beautiful and watching the jellyfish move was mesmerizing. Another exhibit of interest was the reptiles and amphibians area. The campers were very excited to find out that there was an axolotl in this area, several groups huddling around the small pink creature in its tank while a guide explained the scientific intricacies of its life.

The interactive exhibits, in which guests were allowed to touch the sea creatures, provided a new angle of learning for the campers. Touching a sea urchin and noticing the way that its spikes open and close or feeling the texture of the hood of a jellyfish are experiences that they might not get the chance to have again. These experiences



are crucial to learning because they demonstrate the reality of what is being learned and encourage further inquisitiveness.

The aquarium was a magical display of the vast variety of creatures that inhabit our oceans. It was amazing to witness the campers so entranced by the beauty and intrigued by the mystery of the ocean. That intrigue is soon followed by the urge to ask more questions. Asking questions is a skill that the campers absolutely utilized, keeping the aquarium guides occupied and keeping the campers' minds active and curious.



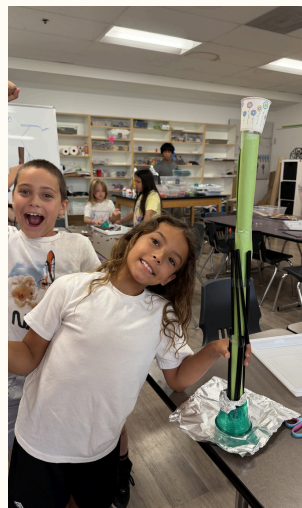
STEM TOWER CHALLENGE REACHES NEW HEIGHTS AT WEST VALLEY SUMMER CAMP!

This week's STEM Challenge at West Valley Summer Camp pushed every camper to think like an engineer, problem solver, and architect! Campers from all four groups, Yellow, Red, Green, and Blue, accepted the challenge to build the tallest tower their imagination could create using only a limited set of materials.

Each team received:

- 20 plastic straws
- 2 sheets of aluminum foil
- 2 sheets of paper
- 3 rubber bands
- 2 cups
- A limited amount of tape

While the materials may have seemed simple, the possibilities were endless. Campers quickly discovered that success wasn't about having more supplies; it was about using creativity, teamwork, critical thinking, and smart engineering. The challenge wasn't simply to build the tallest structure. Every tower also had to pass an engineering test by supporting several blocks at the top and remaining standing for at least 10 seconds without collapsing. This meant campers had to carefully consider balance, weight distribution, structural support, and stability as they designed and refined their creations.



Throughout the activity, the classroom was filled with excitement as teams experimented with different ideas, celebrated successful designs, and learned valuable lessons from structures that didn't quite go as planned. Every adjustment became an opportunity to think critically and improve their engineering skills. Each group brought unique ideas to the table. Some focused on creating a wide, sturdy base, while others experimented with reinforced supports and lightweight designs to gain extra height. Watching the campers collaborate, encourage one another, and persevere through challenges was just as rewarding as seeing the towers rise higher and higher.

After an exciting competition, the Blue Team emerged victorious, constructing an incredible tower that reached an impressive 36 inches in height while successfully meeting the strength and stability requirements. Their outstanding design demonstrated excellent planning, teamwork, and creative problem-solving. At West Valley Summer Camp, STEM is about much more than building projects. Every challenge encourages campers to develop perseverance, communication, innovation, and confidence while having an incredible amount of fun. This week's Tower Challenge reminded everyone that with imagination, determination, and teamwork, there is truly no limit to how high you can reach!



HOPSCOTCH AND CHALK ART

This week, campers took to the streets to develop their blossoming art skills. The summer camp section of the parking lot was covered in chalk art from corner to corner. Hopscotch arenas, ice cream drawings, and miscellaneous doodles were splashed across the asphalt.

To create an hopscotch arena, one must use their creativity to make the arena interesting to look at, high level difficulty, and sometimes have slightly confusing instructions written beside it. Even if mildly confusing, it is all a part of the fun of hopscotch! Campers had fun creating and testing both their own arenas and their friends' arenas. They thought outside of the box with interesting shapes and several colors, taking the classic game of hopscotch to an entirely new level. The drawings surrounding the arenas were equally complex and just as beautiful, making the entire area look like a chalk art installation.

Unfortunately, the nature of chalk is fleeting. Soon enough, the once pristine area had been stepped on, jumped around, and ran across to the point of unrecognizable doodles and indecipherable hopscotch instructions. However, there is a beauty to the blurred image. Campers created the art and are also the ones who can muddy the art by playing atop it. Their ability to have fun in such a variety of ways is amazing, such is the nature of chalk art!



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THINKING ON THEIR FEET: IMPROV COMES TO CAMP!

our Green and Blue Groups stepped into the world of improv, and it quickly became one of the most fun and unique activities of the week! Through a variety of games and challenges, campers had the opportunity to build creativity, teamwork, communication, and confidence, all while sharing plenty of laughs along the way.

The Green Group took on the challenge of "One Word Story," where each camper added just one word at a time to create a story together. It wasn't always easy, but the results were hilarious, creative, and completely unexpected!

Meanwhile, the Blue Group put their quick thinking to the test with a storytelling game that required each person to begin their sentence with a specific letter of the alphabet. Campers had to think fast, work together, and keep the story moving, leading to some truly entertaining moments.

Improv is more than just a game, it encourages campers to think creatively, listen carefully, and support one another as a team. Who knows?

Today's activity may have even inspired a few future stars for our school theatre productions!

One thing is certain, there was no script needed for the fun and laughter we shared today!



WEEK 5 STEM SPOTLIGHT: BOTTLE ROCKETS TAKE FLIGHT!

This week, our Red Group reached for the sky as they transformed ordinary soda bottles into incredible bottle rockets! What started as a simple recycled bottle quickly became a high-flying engineering project filled with excitement, discovery, and plenty of countdowns. As they built their rockets, campers explored the science behind air pressure. By adding a small amount of water and pumping air into the bottle, they watched the air pressure build up inside. They quickly learned that the more pressure they created, the more energy was stored. When the launcher was released, the built-up air pressure was released all at once, sending their rockets soaring high into the sky! It was an unforgettable hands-on lesson that brought science to life right before their eyes.

Before every launch, campers carefully prepared their rockets, made predictions about how high they would fly, and gathered together for an enthusiastic countdown. Then came the best part—3...2...1... Lift Off! Cheers erupted as rockets blasted into the air, climbing higher than many expected before safely returning to the ground. The excitement didn't stop after the first launch. In fact, many campers couldn't wait to do it again! They eagerly ran back to retrieve their rockets, made adjustments, and returned to the launch pad for another flight. With each launch, they became more confident, more curious, and even more excited to see how their rockets would perform.

This challenge was more than just launching bottles into the sky. It gave campers the opportunity to think like engineers, ask questions, test ideas, and experience the thrill of learning through hands-on experimentation. Watching an everyday soda bottle become a soaring rocket reminded everyone that with a little creativity, teamwork, and scientific thinking, ordinary objects can accomplish extraordinary things. The skies over West Valley were filled with laughter, cheers, and soaring rockets as our young engineers discovered that the best way to learn science is to experience it firsthand!



MISSION PARACHUTE RESCUE!

This week, our youngest innovators in the Yellow Group took on one of our most exciting STEM adventures yet, Mission Parachute Rescue! With creativity, curiosity, and plenty of enthusiasm, campers stepped into the role of aerospace engineers as they built their very own parachutes and discovered the fascinating science behind how they work. Using simple materials, campers carefully assembled their parachutes while learning about gravity, air resistance, and drag. They explored how a parachute catches air to slow an object's descent, providing their passenger with a safe, gentle landing. As each parachute took flight, campers observed what worked well, made adjustments, and learned that testing and improving are an important part of the engineering process.

One of the biggest highlights of the challenge was the special passengers, adorable 3D-printed stick figures, printed right here at West Valley Christian School! Each camper proudly attached their parachute to their very own stick figure before watching it glide through the air. Seeing their creations float safely toward the ground brought excitement, laughter, and a great sense of accomplishment. Throughout the activity, campers compared different parachute sizes and shapes, discovering how even small changes could affect the speed and stability of the descent. Every launch became an opportunity to think critically, solve problems, and improve their next attempt, just like real engineers and scientists do every day.

At West Valley Summer Camp, STEM is about much more than building fun projects; it's about inspiring young minds to ask questions, think creatively, and develop confidence through hands-on learning. Week 5's Parachute Challenge was another wonderful reminder that learning can be exciting, interactive, and full of discovery. Our Yellow Group had an incredible time, proving once again that even the youngest campers can dream big, think creatively, and soar to new heights!

