Prairie Grove Elementary: STEM

"The practices describe behaviors that scientists engage in as they investigate and build models and theories about the natural world and the key set of engineering practices that engineers use as they design and build models and systems. The NRC uses the term practices instead of a term like "skills" to emphasize that engaging in scientific investigation requires not only skill but also knowledge that is specific to each practice. Part of the NRC's intent is to better explain and extend what is meant by "inquiry" in science and the range of cognitive, social, and physical practices that it requires. Although engineering design is similar to scientific inquiry, there are significant differences. For example, scientific inquiry involves the formulation of a question that can be answered through investigation, while engineering design involves the formulation of a problem that can be solved through design. Strengthening the engineering aspects of the Next Generation Science Standards will clarify for students the relevance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (the four STEM fields) to everyday life."-National Science Teaching Association

Grades K-5 Year Long: Weekly [Link to STEM website](#)	
Standards alignment varies grade-to-grade.	The students will be able to: ● Work with peers to ask questions and solve problems in a collective process. ● Develop models and use tools to represent ideas/explanations. ● Plan and carryout investigations. ● Analyze and interpret data at a varying degree of depth reliant on age appropriateness. ● Construct explanations and design solutions to problems.
Prairie Grove Elementary students have the opportunity to engage in a hands-on STEM experience once a week for an hour. Our program specifically focuses on the inquiry process and building thinkers and problems solvers, even for our youngest learners. While all curriculums are aligned to the engineering practices of NGSS, other unique opportunities are built in throughout the year to promote a life-long love of Science-Technology-Engineering-Math! These opportunities include: interacting with coding with [code.org](#), ozobots, maker challenges, and many more. Content from the program is outlined and guided through [Mystery Science](#) and [Hand 2 Mind](#).	