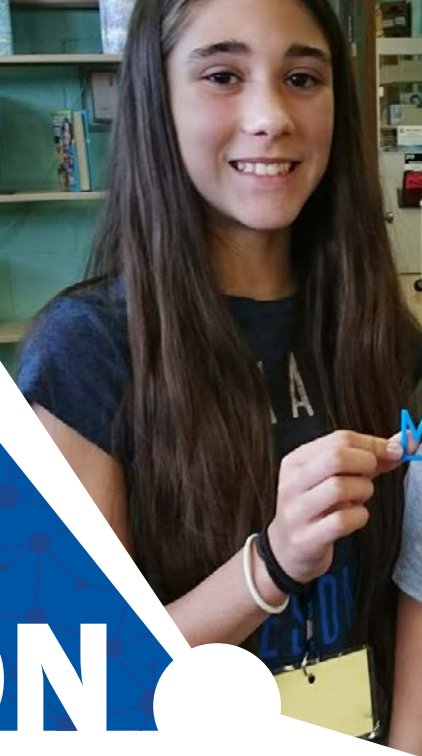


FOSTERING CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

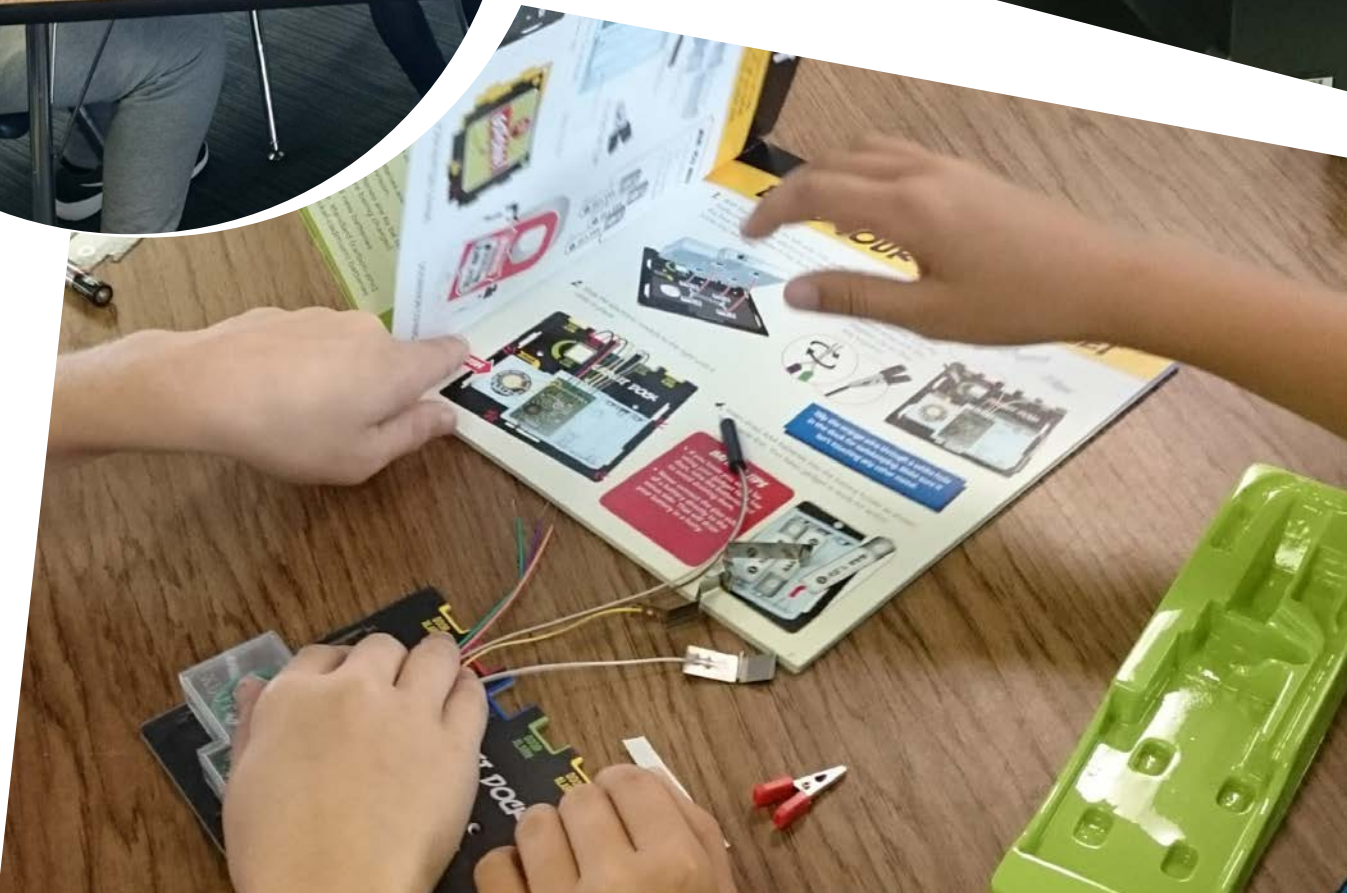


Braxton Craven Middle School in Trinity, North Carolina, epitomizes a progressive environment that fosters creativity through hands-on learning. In addition to offering a robust STEM curriculum through traditional coursework, Braxton Craven recently launched a Maker Space in its Library Media Center using proceeds from a Dart Foundation grant. Equipped with a 3D printer, building materials, art supplies and everyday household items, students are encouraged to “create, tinker, remix and remake” projects both individually and in collaboration with their classmates. Studies unequivocally demonstrate that this form of hands-on, experiential learning strongly aids in the development of essential critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

“Students are encouraged to ‘create, tinker, remix and remake’ projects both individually and in collaboration.”

Media Coordinator Amy Caputa has been integral in introducing this additional programming at Braxton Craven. The Maker Space aligns closely with the Library Media Center’s mission, which states: “In partnership with teachers, the [Braxton Craven] Library Program empowers students to become enthusiastic readers, critical thinkers, skillful researchers and ethical users and producers of information in a global society. Students share ideas, supplies and skills and work together to create projects.”

W.A. and Claire Dart established the Dart Foundation on the premise that investments in science, technology, education, research and development change people’s lives. The Dart Foundation is working to provide STEM exposure and learning opportunities to children from Preschool through High School, and then thereafter through career development opportunities. Grants like these honor the inspiration and legacy of the Dart family, and prepare the next generation for careers in STEM and the skilled trades. ■



Braxton Craven
Middle School,
Asheboro, NC