



School Spotlight: Bugg Magnet ES

Imagine you are entering elementary school as a student for the first time. You're clutching your backpack shoulder straps unaware of what the day entails. You ride the bus surrounded by students that are filled with experienced students chatting and engaging confidently with each other. There are a few newer students like you staring out the windows. You exit the bus and stare in awe at the school building where you'll be spending several of your formative years. You walk to the door greeted by friendly adult faces pointing you in the right direction toward your class. You enter your first class filled with students your age with apprehension on their faces.

Most can relate to this scenario. Now imagine you are the same child entering Bugg Magnet Elementary School, Center for Design & Computer Sciences, but you've already toured the school with your parents and met a few students starting the same day as you. During the tour, you watched the video showing kids like you collaborating, creating, and designing. You heard all about the school and what to expect. You laughed as you and your parents engaged in a Project Based Learning (PBL) activity that encouraged design and computational learning. You felt more at ease as you toured the classrooms and watched the teachers and students interacting. The first day of school was a lot less stressful.



Bugg Magnet Elementary School prides itself on its unique and personalized experiences that build authentic engagement and student voice while preparing students for college and careers. Students don't just learn facts. They engage in meaningful hands-on activities that encourage critical thinking and problem-solving. The students learn how to empathize, collaborate, decompose, ideate, and create algorithms to problem solve and design prototypes.

The decision to rebrand the school in 2017 to the Center for Design and Computer Sciences was selected to encourage innovation and forward-thinking. To understand what this means, you need to grasp how this is put into practice. Computational thinking and design are instilled in each class's curriculum. It affects how students walk down the hall during the morning greeting, and how they collaborate with their peers. At Bugg, the theme is incorporated into almost everything the students do.



"All children would benefit from the diverse learning culture at Bugg. Project Based Learning (hands-on) is a fantastic way for everyone to learn. Students often work at their own pace as they design, problem-solve, and create products (prototypes). They experience collaborating with students that have different viewpoints, learning styles, ideas, and personalities to solve problems. Modifications, in the classroom, are in place for students that need a different approach when trying to master the material. Bugg is a safe place that enables all students to learn, experiment, grow, and thrive in many different areas," says Principal Becky Foote.

DeLesia Williams, a first-grade teacher at Bugg, begins her lesson with a book or video and then has students decompose parts of a story and identify problems within that story, thus using computational thinking. "One of the students' favorite lessons this year came from the book Iggy Peck, Architect. We completed an engineering project, where the students had to use algorithmic design to create a prototype of a bridge. This lesson, along with many of the lessons in my classroom, allowed for design thinking and applying those skills to problem solve and create solutions," Williams said.

Principal Foote offers some advice for parents enrolling their child at Bugg.

"...every child learns in their own way and we are going to guide and help them be the best they can be. We have the means to make that happen. They are going to make mistakes and that is okay. That is how they learn. Show them you are interested in what they have learned and let them 'show and tell' you. Get to know their teacher, volunteer when you can, BE INVOLVED! Every child has a gift; we just need to find it and encourage them to run with it. Our children are our future and we are preparing them for what lies ahead. We want them to be happy and thrive!"

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