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Horizon hosts Kindergarten STEAM Fest

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Little scientists, engineers and innovative thinkers sported lab coats and conducted experiments April 25 during Horizon Science Academy of Lorain's first ever Kindergarten STEAM Fest.

Kindergartners of the concept school, 760 Tower Blvd., filled the gymnasium while they engaged in 16 different STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) experiments.

Some of the youngsters participated in the experiments, while others in their lab coats demonstrated the experiments with the help of high school students.

The projects included transmitting electricity through fruit, bouncy bubbles, robotics, shrinky dink projects, slime and creating instant snow.

The kindergartners were joined by their family members who participated with the experiments, music, dance and fun.

Horizon High School teacher Elif Polat said the Kindergarten STEAM Fest was developed after one in November 2018 for first- through 12th-grade students.

Polat said the students should have the opportunity to engage in innovative

learning, no matter the age.

"Kids learn better with hands-on activities," she said. "This way, they can learn faster and it makes them get excited to learn."

Polat said the STEAM Fest also promotes kindergartners gaining interest in any realm of the STEAM field at a young age.

In addition to the students engaging in the projects, the kindergartners practiced their presentation skills, Polat said.

The school focuses on a science and STEM-based curriculum where frequent opportunities like science fairs come around for students, she said.

At the science fairs, students work on their own projects then present them to judges.

Polat said introducing kindergartners to this type of skill and learning can prepare them at an early age for opportunities they will come across continuously at Horizon Science Academy.

"We want to make them mentally ready for a science environment," she said. More science opportunities and programs will grow and develop within the academy, Polat said.

