



## Who are we?

*Art2STEM*, in partnership with Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) is designed specifically for girls in grades seven through nine to engage their interests, skills and abilities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The program introduces girls to STEM-related studies they can pursue in high school through career academies and college. Our partners include MNPS, PENCIL Foundation, Adventure Science Center, Tennessee Tech University, and Edvantia. Funding of \$1.3 million to support the project over three years has been provided to Alignment Nashville by the National Science Foundation.

## Which schools are engaged?

Approximately 280 students enrolled in *Art2STEM* for the 2010/2011 school year. One of the long-term goals of *Art2STEM* is to increase the likelihood that the participating girls will enroll in STEM-focused academies in high school. After-school clubs are located in eight middle schools: Apollo, Bailey, Croft, DuPont Tyler, Joelton, Oliver, Thurgood Marshall, and West End. In the fall of 2010, the program expanded to include Antioch, Cane Ridge, McGavock, and Overton high schools.

## The Details

Research shows that only about 3% of 9<sup>th</sup> grade girls expressed interest in enrolling in a STEM-related career as their first choice. The most common interest was in arts and entertainment. We believe that all students, but especially girls and minority students, simply are not aware of the many career opportunities in STEM fields and how relevant they are to their own talents as well as real-world issues.

The sessions take place in informal settings and are facilitated by teams of “coaches” that consist of middle and high school teachers as well as mentors who are recruited by Adventure Science Center from local colleges and businesses. Activities are grounded within an authentic, local context through partnerships with local businesses. PENCIL Foundation serves as the business engagement partner (as well as the fiscal agent) for *Art2STEM*. Through business engagement, students are able to visit several local companies, including: Aegis Labs, Nashville Display, NES, Dell, Earl Swensson Associates, Triumph Aerostructures, Npt, Nissan, Deloitte, LP Building Products, the Parthenon, and Frist Center for the Visual Arts.

The year in *Art2STEM* culminates with a one-week summer camp. The summer camp experience is a fun way for Coaches and club members to dig deeper in previous activities as well as to explore a range of new STEM activities while networking and making new friends.

For more information on *Art2STEM*, contact Sandra Harris at 615.242.3167, ext. 240  
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