

Wow, things are really starting to "gear up" in our classrooms these past few weeks. It is exciting to see the progress that has happened in such a short time. I have included updates for you below and some photos. I have to be honest, when I asked teachers for photos to share with you, I had several teachers email me right away and asked that I share their photos. The teachers and students are so proud of what they are learning.

- All 5 elementary pilot schools have completed Readiness and Core Training. Readiness training focuses on building awareness and confidence related to K-5 STEM education; activity-, project-, and problem-based learning; and the roles of the teacher and student as they relate to instruction. Core training is specific to each PLTW Launch module and successful completion is required before teachers are given access to teach classroom materials.
- Some classrooms are already diving into the curriculum, and the reaction from teachers, principals, and most importantly students is fantastic.
- I had a chance to ask a few parent friends if their kids are sharing what they are doing at school and we have received an overwhelming "Yes".
- Schools are in various phases of incorporating and supporting technology integration training for teachers. We have seen an increased use of technology integrated into all aspects of learning in our PLTW schools.
- Our next 6 elementary schools are officially registered for Year 2 (Highland, Burlington, Meadowlark, Eagle Cliffs, Broadwater, and Newman Elementary). We received applications for the pilot middle school program this next school year, and selected Will James MS to pilot PLTW Gateway Curriculum. We have lots to figure out in the implementation of a middle school program, but we are well on our way.
- Thank you Chelsea and ExxonMobil for making a big splash in Melissa Soucy's Kindergarten (Washington Elementary) classroom. One student shared, "This is the best day of my life." check it out....<http://www.kulr8.com/story/27370499/exxonmobil-engineer-visits-washington-elementary>
- This year's Educator for a Day program was a home run in our PLTW schools. Principal Cheryl Malia-McCall had a full day of PLTW when guest educators were at Beartooth Elementary last week. <http://www.ktvq.com/news/billings-school-district-2-educator-for-a-day-program-sheds-light-on-new-projects/>
- In the arena of funding, we applied for several grants over the past 2 months; we have not heard back from several and were unsuccessful with others. We are still diligently working to secure funding for year 2.