



## JFK TEACHER AND STUDENTS WORK ON S.T.E.A.M. PROJECTS FUNDED BY W.E.F.



Photo: JFK Elementary students work on a S.T.E.A.M project in tandem with students of a school in Jordan Photo courtesy of Windsor Schools

By Jenna Herrick

Oletha Walker, a teacher at John F. Kennedy Elementary School in Windsor, launched a partnership with Level Up Village (LUV) to offer cutting-edge global STEAM (STEM + ARTS) Education to her school thanks to local funding by the Windsor Education Foundation.

Walker is the Challenge Resource teacher, working with the school's gifted and talented students, the school's STEM teacher, and now the Project Based Learning teacher. After hearing about LUV's Global Inventors (3D printing) course, which connects students with global partners to learn computer aided design and 3D printing, Walker pursued different opportunities to bring this

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### JFK STUDENTS

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- innovative approach to her school.

"Our curriculum already provided a focus on STEM, but my students needed to know it was relatable to the real world," said Walker. "It's important to prepare them for the jobs of the future, to be creative and think outside of the box."

Walker applied for a grant through the Windsor Education Foundation, a non-profit that provides funding to innovative educational programs within the town. The organization fully funded her grant, which included the Global Inventors course, a 3D printer and all necessary supplies to operate it. The Enfield-based Tobacco Valley Teachers Federal Credit Union also funded an additional 3D printer.

As part of the Global Inventors course, students collaborate one-on-one with partner students from one of LUV's Global Partner organizations in a developing country via video message exchange. LUV paired her students with global partners at Al Hassad School in Amman, Jordan. The students follow the same curriculum and

work together to design and 3D print a variety of projects, culminating in a 3D printed solar powered light source.

"By partnering with Level Up Village, we are helping our students develop 21st century skills through hands-on STEAM projects and global collaboration," added Walker. "The global component of this program is especially exciting and will give students the extraordinary opportunity to work together with their partners, while simultaneously learning about their lives and daily life in the developing world."

About The Windsor Education Foundation:

*The Windsor Education Foundation is an independent non-profit organization formed by Windsor citizens to support Windsor's teachers and students by funding original, creative educational projects for Windsor kids. These innovative projects benefit large numbers of students with varying learning abilities, all without relying on the tax-funded school budget. To learn more please go to [www.WindsorEducationFoundation.org](http://www.WindsorEducationFoundation.org).*