

# The Daily Home

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## Talladega County Schools launch 'Level Up Village' courses

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Home staff writer

Earlier this spring, the Talladega County school system established an innovative global STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) program for its science courses through a partnership with the "Level Up Village" (LUV) organization.

Students from Lincoln Elementary, B.B. Comer High and Fayetteville schools have been immersed in learning required science standards, while also learning skills such as computer animated drawing (CAD), 3D printing, problem-solving, communication and collaboration.

"LUV empowers children to make a difference in the world with courses that promote design thinking and one-to-one collaboration on real-world problems," an official press release says.

Talladega County students are teaming up with their peers from multiple developing countries such as Nicaragua, Ghana and Palestine

through the exchange of video messaging.

"While researching online for STEAM resources and curriculum, I came across Level Up Village," said Craig Bates, Talladega County Schools coordinator of technology. "I read the course descriptions and immediately realized the strong connection to science standards and project-based learning.

"When you add in the global partnering, Level Up Village becomes an indispensable partner in giving our students this experience."

The LUV courses involve collaboration between K-9 students in the United States and global partner students in more than 20 countries.

"Level Up Village has allowed our students to branch outside the walls of Lincoln Elementary School into a global world where they are solving real world problems," said Shannon Hill, instructional partner for LES. "Our students are collaborating with their global partner from Nicaragua and Palestine to help solve a problem (with) the lack of reliable access to

electricity.

"Through the use of one-to-one videos, our students are learning about different cultures, which have caused our students to become physically and emotionally connected to this project. It amazes me to see third-grade students rise up to the challenge by designing solar powered flashlights through a digital software that can be printed and functional."

Added CEO and Co-Founder of LUV Amy McCooe, "We are thrilled to work with Talladega County Schools to create a vibrant, global classroom experience where students will not only develop essential 21st century skills but also the mindset they need to become compassionate global citizens.

"Our goal is to make it easy for schools to globalize the classroom by providing them with fully developed curricula, comprehensive teaching training and experienced management of the global collaboration process."

For more information, go to [www.levelupvillage.com/](http://www.levelupvillage.com/).