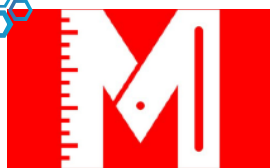
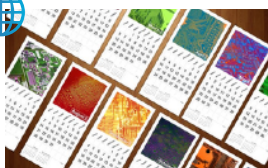


**P1 / PDS & TRAINING**

Continue to develop professionally with in-person & online opportunities

**P3 / ACCESSIBILITY**

There are a variety of ongoing opportunities for project based learning.

**P3 / STEM CALENDAR**

See what is going on in the world of STEM education.

**P4 / NEW IN EDTECH**

Game-based learning gets an upgrade.

# District 75 STEMConnect



## Growing & Developing Professionally

There are a number of learning opportunities for teachers this year. Here are a few.

**District 75 PD Catalog** - There are some new offerings like the [Minecraft EDU Initiative](#), [Soap Box Derby](#), [Digital Storytelling For All](#), [SMART & Promethean Interactives](#), [AR You Ready for This?](#), & [Access the World](#), [Access for Life](#).

**DIIT Professional Learning** - Learn about SPOC-related technology

issues like network management, Office 365, and G Suite.

**#NYCSchoolsTech Partner Cert.** - (due Sep. 23) The program, formerly the IPPD, connects teachers with EdTech companies. Fill out [the survey](#) to apply.

**DOE STEM** - In addition to multi-day institutes the citywide STEM team provides [partnership opportunities](#).

**MENTORME EDU** - If you're a new or veteran teacher looking to

improve your practices, consider a virtual mentor. [Fill out the application](#).

**CONFERENCES** - Find upcoming conferences from the [NSTA Conference](#) for science teachers to [Closing the Gap](#) and [ISTE](#) for accessibility and technology specialists respectively. There are even online conferences like the [Efficient Teacher Conference](#) & [Hive Summit](#). Here is a [comprehensive list](#).

# Skill of the Month

## Makerspaces

Whether you call it building, engineering, or project-based learning, (PBL) you will find making to be a powerful educational tool. It is one of the most impactful ways we have found to engage students in learning [21st-century skills](#). Students are motivated to learn and retain information more powerfully in an open PBL environment. See some ways you can begin as shared at the [Make: Education Forum](#). You can attend this year's forum by [signing up](#).



### MAKER FAIRE

The [NYC Maker Faire](#) will be coming up on September 22nd & 23rd at the [New York Hall of Science](#) (NYSci), a space with wonderful year-round making opportunities for students. Check some of the details from [last year's event](#) to see what you can expect.

### MAKERS IN THE CLASSROOM

PBL in the classroom may seem like a major ordeal, but it doesn't have to be. You can begin with cardboard, milk cartons, and an idea. You may also want to begin with a field trip to learn about design thinking at the [Cooper Hewitt](#) or at NYSci. The [The Extraordinaires](#) is a great game to set students on that path too. Of course, a great place to start is with the [Makerspace at D75 \(MAD Lab\)](#) trainings.

If you plan to expand creation in your classroom you

can find successful examples of school makerspaces in New York City schools via the [INNOVATION! School Library Makerspaces](#) where grants are given to encourage creative design. There are many other [makerspace grant opportunities](#) as well.

You can also use some of the following tools to expand making.

“The desire to create is of the deepest yearnings of the human soul.”  
- Dieter F. Uchtdorf

- [Engineering is Elementary](#) - a PBL curriculum-check out [some of the details](#)
- [Paper Engineering](#)
- [Wearables](#) - combining sewing and electronics
- [Arduino](#) - open source electronics platform
- [littleBits](#) - easy-to-use color coded magnetic electronics component - attend the PD



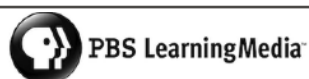
- [SAM Labs](#) - similar to littleBits except each component is powered and Bluetooth ready



- [Makey Makey](#) - create controllers using everyday conductive objects
- [3D Printing](#)
- [Lego Robotics](#) - [attend the PD](#)

Find many more [Makerspace Education resources](#) as well as [information on after-school makerspaces, clubs, and camps](#).

## App of the Month



Educators have long been familiar with PBS as a go-to source for educational games like [Mission U.S](#) and [Nova Labs](#) for older students to [PBS Kids games](#) for elementary classrooms. Not all games are created equal though and neither are all game players. [Accessible games](#) and controllers are more available now, but they are still rare. WNET has paired up with Bridge Multimedia to create an accessible Cyberchase math

game called [Railway Hero](#).

In Railway Hero Hacker has stolen pieces of the Information SuperRailway and you are tasked with repairing the tracks and reconnecting the cyber sites. Digit guides the team through increasingly difficult challenges that address early numeracy skills in a by asking students to solve tangible visual math problems to repair the tracks. students could accomplish early levels. The game has a variety of accessibility features that are easily available throughout the game. This includes adjustments for visual, hearing, and learning impairments. I suggest using the [app versions](#) for an extra level of accessibility for users. It can even lead to discussions about [digital citizenship](#) to improve the internet in the real world.





# Science Opportunities

## Scientist In Residence

Bring a scientist or STEM professional to your classroom to conduct scientific investigations with your students.

**Registration Deadline:** Sep. 26

**Grades:** Elementary, Middle, & High School

**Dates:** 4 days during school hours in Oct-Apr depending borough/grade

**Locations:** Training & integration in all 5 boroughs

## Citizen Scientist

Middle school classes are paired with 'research missions' through local science & sustainability organizations to focus on the health of NYC estuary ecosystems. It is structured as an after-school program.

**Registration Deadline:** Sep. 18

**Grades:** Middle School

**Dates:** 4 days in Oct., Dec., and Jan. & year round activities

**Locations:** TBD

## Urban Ecosystem

Elementary school classes explore the New York City ecosystem in the classroom and beyond it.



**Registration Deadline:** Sep. 28

**Grades:** Elementary School

**Dates:** 5 days in Nov.-Mar. & year round activities

**Locations:** TBD

## HS Research Pathways

The HSSRP program helps schools build great science research programs where students can carry on their own investigations. An optional [partnership with Syracuse University](#) gives students the opportunity to earn college credit.

**Registration Deadline:** Sep. 27

**Grades:** High School

**Dates:** Nov. to June

**Locations:** School & Syracuse Univ.

## Science of Smart Cities

The HSSRP program helps schools build great science research programs where students can carry on their own investigations. An optional [partnership with Syracuse University](#) gives students the opportunity to earn college credit.

**Registration Deadline:** Sep. 27

**Grades:** High School

**Dates:** Nov. to June

**Locations:** School & Syracuse Univ.

## CALL FOR STUDENTS

We're looking to change the way we share the work of STEM in District 75. We would like to show examples of students doing exemplary work in our district. If you have a student who would be able and willing to share, please fill out the [survey form](#). It will be available throughout the year if you are more inclined to share after a particular project. Early submissions will be considered first though.



## District 75 STEM Calendar

September 21<sup>st</sup>  
Make Education Forum

September 22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>  
World Maker Faire

September 23<sup>rd</sup>  
NYC SchoolsTech Application Due

September 25<sup>th</sup>  
LEGO75 League Training

September 25<sup>th</sup>  
Intro to G Suite Admin

September 26<sup>th</sup>  
UN We Day

September 28<sup>th</sup>  
Deploying iOS and Deploying Mac

September 29<sup>th</sup>  
Get Going w/ Google & Beyond Google

October 1<sup>st</sup>  
Soap Box Derby Training

October 2<sup>nd</sup>  
G Suite 101

October 3<sup>rd</sup>  
MS Innovative Educator Academy

October 4<sup>th</sup>  
SmartBoard Refresher

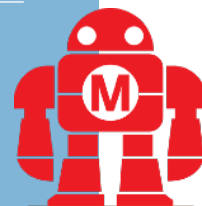
October 5<sup>th</sup>  
Plant-Learn-Grow 101

October 9<sup>th</sup>  
D75 Minecraft EDU Initiative

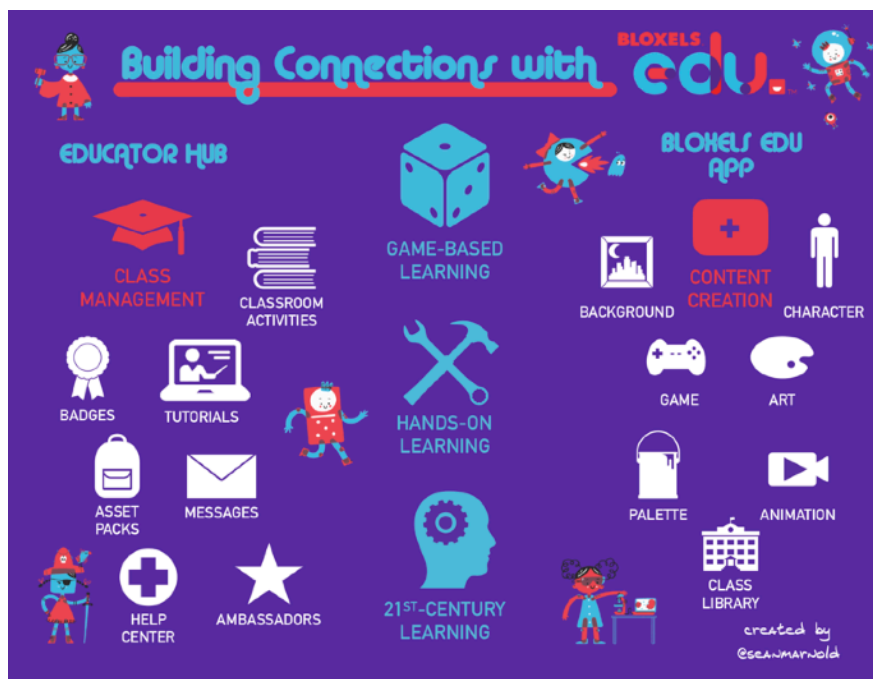
October 15<sup>th</sup>  
AAC/Lamp Words fro Life

October 17<sup>th</sup>  
Integrating iPads

October 17<sup>th</sup>  
Office 365 Teacher Academy



# 2018 EdTech Updates



## BLOXELS

Bloxels had one of the biggest overhauls of any edtech platform recently. While the same basic elements of playful creation from [Bloxels Builder](#) remain, the entire structure of the Bloxels EDU system has shifted.

Bloxels is essentially a construction and design toy paired with a digital game creation tool. That means it is both [hands-on project-based learning](#) and [computer science](#) combined in a platform easy enough for kindergarten students to explore.

### ALL NEW

- **Class Management:** The all-new [Educator Hub](#) allows you to view, manage, message, and reward students.
- [Bloxels EDU App](#):

Check out a [complete walkthrough](#) along other resources.

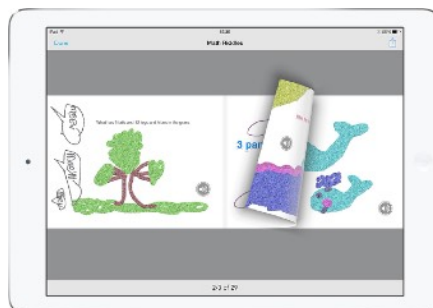
## BOOK CREATOR

[Book Creator](#) is probably the easiest way for students and teachers to create digital stories that still function as an actual book. Even better, the books have a number of embedded accessibility features for struggling readers and writers to still be able to participate.

### ALL NEW

- Page Designs
- [Embedded Content](#)
- [Google Partnership](#)
- New eBook

Find [more information](#) on how to bring your student stories to life.



## BREAKOUT EDU

Here's a quick overview for the uninitiated. [Breakout EDU](#) is an escape room in a box for your class. Why? Because it promotes [21st-century learning skills](#) in a playful and challenging way. They have a number of new features both online and offline.

### ALL NEW

- [Breakout Game Design Tools](#)
- [Digital Breakouts](#)
- [Digital Breakout Creation Tools](#)
- **Student Game Builder**
- **New Subject Packs**
- **New Breakout EDU Apps**

You can find tutorials, resources, and free example games along with more of what's new [in this post](#).

## EDPUZZLE

If you want to make existing videos more impactful while incorporating assessment, [Ed Puzzle](#) is the way to go.

They make it easy to edit online videos, incorporate, assessments, and add your own notes and audio. They've also added some new features

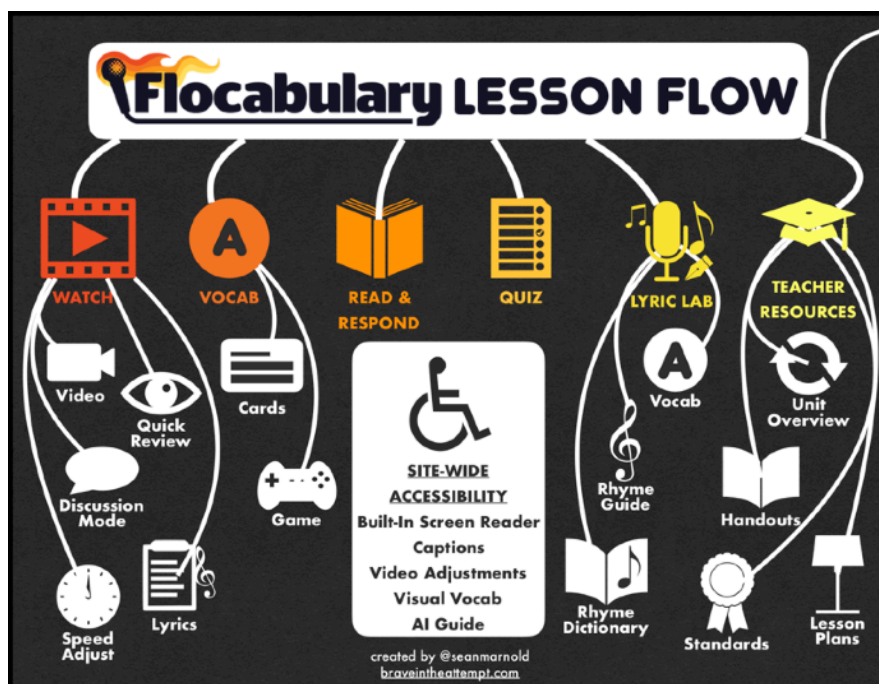
### ALL NEW

- **New Content**
- **Alerts & Notifications**
- **Better Analytics**
- **Pro Features for Free**

Check out [all the details](#).







## FLOCABULARY

Flocabulary [added several new features last year](#). Now their site has a brand new look with subjects, standards, and classes easily accessible at the top while recommendations, recent videos, and favorites are easily seen on the home page along with current events and monthly topics.

They've also made it easy to sync with Google Classroom as well as

adding a fun new [Vocab Game](#)

That's all in addition to new content like videos on nutrition, mindfulness, the Vietnam War, and several more. Find out [more information](#).

## QUIZLET

The best flashcard site on the internet has added a number of great new features.



## District 75 STEM Next Issue

### APP/SKILL OF THE MONTH

We'll give an overview of an app and teach you about a basic tech skill.

### GOOGLE UPDATES

There are a number of new options available to users.

Games: match, gravity, live multiplayer

### ALL NEW

- Auto-Suggestions
- Google Auto Sign-In
- Flexible Grading
- [Improved iOS App](#)
- [GimKit](#) Link: connected to one of the best new GBL tools

Check out the [full overview](#).

