



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 11, 2026

MEDIA CONTACT
Samantha Cotten
samantha.cotten@southmont.k12.in.us

South Montgomery Community School Corporation Earns Prestigious International STEM Accreditation Across All K–8 Schools In Partnership with STEM.org

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN — South Montgomery Community School Corporation (Southmont Schools) has officially earned International STEM Accreditation for all K–8 schools through STEM.org, becoming the premier district in Montgomery County. This accreditation process verified their ability to deliver high-quality, future-focused STEM education experiences for students. This internationally recognized achievement reflects Southmont's district wide commitment to innovation, student opportunity, career-connected learning, and academic excellence.

The international designation validates Southmont Schools' dedication to preparing students for success in an increasingly complex and technology-driven world through hands-on, inquiry-based STEM learning experiences that extend far beyond the classroom.

Southmont's accredited K–8 schools include:

- Southmont Junior High School
- Ladoga Elementary School
- New Market Elementary School
- Walnut Elementary School

This achievement places Southmont Schools among a select group of districts demonstrating excellence in STEM education systems, student engagement, innovation, and real-world learning opportunities. The accreditation process examined how schools integrate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics into authentic learning experiences while building the durable skills students need for future success, including collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, communication, leadership, and problem-solving.

“Southmont Schools has created something truly exceptional,” said Tracey Parrish, Director of STEM with U.S. STEM Schools. “This district is not simply implementing STEM activities. They are building a culture where innovation, exploration, and premium learning opportunities are embedded into the student experience from the earliest grades through junior high. Their

commitment to providing meaningful opportunities for students, supporting educators, and building strong community partnerships makes Southmont a model for what modern education can and should look like.”

What Sets Southmont Schools Apart in STEM Education:

1. **Districtwide Commitment to Real-World, Hands-On STEM Learning**

Across every K–8 school, Southmont students engage in authentic, project-based learning experiences that connect classroom instruction to real-world challenges and future careers. From sustainability projects and agricultural science initiatives to engineering design challenges, robotics, coding, and advanced manufacturing experiences, students are consistently encouraged to think critically, collaborate, innovate, and apply their learning in meaningful ways.

2. **Exceptional Career Connections and Community Partnerships**

Southmont Schools has intentionally built partnerships with universities, local industries, manufacturing organizations, 4-H programs, and community leaders to create powerful career-connected learning experiences for students. Opportunities such as Manufacturing Week, Women in STEM experiences, Purdue University partnerships, advanced manufacturing exploration, coding clubs, and innovation labs expose students to high-demand career pathways while helping them develop skills that translate to the workforce at an early age.

3. **A Student-Centered Vision Focused on Innovation and Future Readiness**

What separates Southmont Schools is not just individual STEM programs, but the district’s unified vision for student success. Across all grade levels, students are empowered to become confident learners, adaptable problem-solvers, and future leaders. Teachers foster engaging, inquiry-driven classrooms where creativity, exploration, reflection, and perseverance are part of daily learning. Through intentional STEM integration, Southmont students are gaining the academic, technical, and durable skills necessary to thrive in high school, college, careers, and life beyond graduation.

The accreditation also reinforces Southmont Schools’ growing reputation as Montgomery County’s leading destination for innovative student learning experiences and educational opportunity. Families seeking a district that prioritizes hands-on learning, student engagement, career readiness, and future-focused instruction will find Southmont Schools at the forefront of educational excellence.

Through this work, Southmont has demonstrated that exceptional STEM education is not limited to large urban districts. Instead, the district has shown how strong leadership, visionary educators, and meaningful community collaboration can create transformational opportunities for students in every classroom.

The district's STEM programming reflects a long-term investment in preparing students not only for academic achievement, but for meaningful futures in a rapidly changing workforce and global economy.

As Southmont continues expanding STEM opportunities for students, this international accreditation serves as both a celebration of what has already been accomplished and a foundation for continued innovation and growth.

For more information about Southmont Schools' STEM programming and accredited STEM initiatives, visit [U.S. STEM Schools](#).

###

About Southmont Schools:

Southmont Schools has more than 1,600 students, and consists of three elementary schools, one junior high school, and one high school. Each and every Southmont Schools campus has one goal: preparing students for what comes next. From our earliest learners in the Little Mountie Preschool program, to our high school students getting ready to enter post-secondary education or the workforce - Southmont Schools strives to ensure each student has the ability, the education, and the passion to succeed.