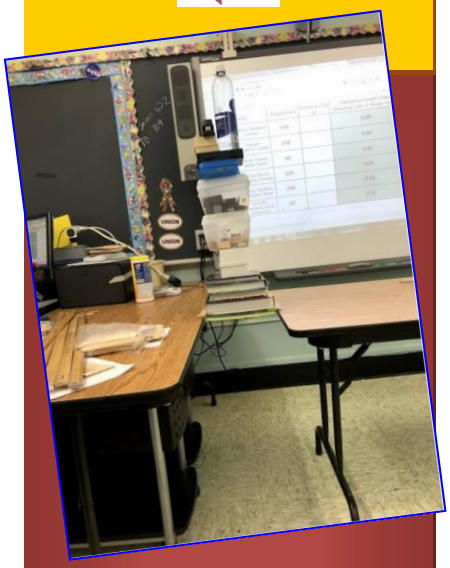
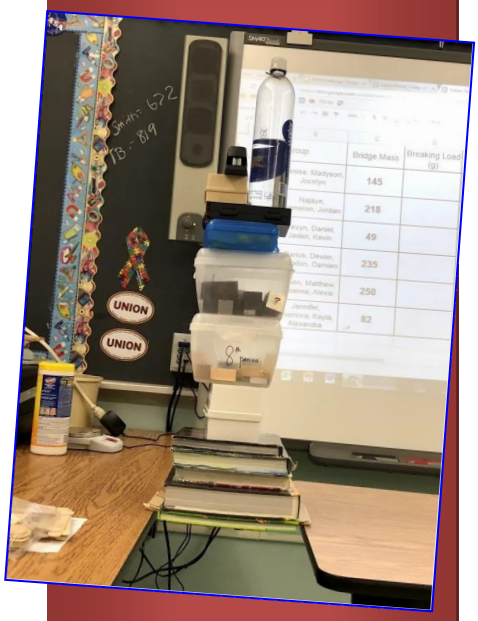
# Smoke Signals Newsletter





STEM Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

## *STEM projects close out the year for KMS Science Department!*

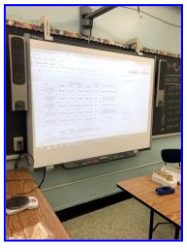
## *STEMming From the Original*

*By: Hailey Vasylyschuk*

There are two unbroken bridges in Mrs. Stabler's period 1 science class. Both are piled high with books, boxes of scientific masses, and other miscellaneous items. This extravagant pileup is part of the STEM challenge for this school year, a.k.a. *Build a Bridge and Get Over It*. This year, the winning bridges were based on a simple but strong plank design. Winners included The reasons behind those designs' successes are as simple as their structures, most, if not all, of the winning bridges were light, flexible, and used a design very similar to what any Neanderthal would use to cross a gorge or river: a wooden plank.

This design has been around for thousands of years, and though it looks like it could break as soon as you step on it, it is the strongest and least expensive format of bridge building in history. The secret behind its success is simple: flexibility, lightness, and pure simplicity. So, the next time you step on a bridge, think of how it branches off from the type of bridge that has won its place in both STEM challenges and engineering history.

STEM



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