

RITE NOW @ ROP



Physics in Action

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, jobs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) are growing faster and paying more than non-STEM positions. In addition, STEM jobs often go unfilled due to lack of qualified applicants. By making STEM education opportunities available today, youth entering tomorrow's workforce will be better aligned with employer needs and well-positioned for sustainable and well-compensated employment.

As part of J. Walter Wood's applied approach to STEM learning, students learned about the physics behind hot air balloon flight by constructing their own small-scale hot air balloons. The balloons were built using tissue paper and launched to witness science in action. The makeshift balloons rose as the result of the increased temperature on the motions of molecules of a gas, and thereby on the density of the gas. The balloons remained afloat in the cooler air due to the buoyant force. This is the same force that helps you float in water.
