

I AM STEM

Vivian Lee

“EVERYONE IS A SCIENTIST.”

For Dr. Vivian Lee, life is one big experiment. That's the message that she has worked hard to instill in the students she's been teaching at CMSD. Dr. Lee is a biology teacher at the Benjamin O. Davis Aerospace & Maritime High School, and continues to bring her love of life's experiment to her students each day.

Did you have a mentor?

Yes. My mother was a medical technologist. I loved my mother, and I connected biology with her. She gave me my first microscope.

What advice do you have for kids exploring the world and discovering what they're interested in?

Life is one big experiment. You make decisions, and check things out. But don't lock yourself in. Make observations, and record the data, just like you do in an experiment. And you decide what you want to become. Be open, and willing to try. You don't fail until you stop.

What does STEM mean to you?

Exploration. That's what it is. Everybody is a scientist.

What would you have wanted to hear about the promise of STEM as a young person?

I was aware of what my mother did in the science world, but I don't think school exposed me enough to all of the varieties of fields of study that existed. And I don't think it was intentional. It's just that in urban schools, in Black communities, knowledge is limited. They shared what they knew. But there are so many things out there you can do. Be open and learn from everybody.



The NeoSTEM Ecosystem is a collaboration of organizations throughout Northeast Ohio who partner to improve STEM educational opportunities for all students. Formed in 2014, the NeoSTEM Ecosystem's goals are to improve meaningful STEM learning opportunities for all students in the Northeast Ohio region. As one of 94 ecosystems operating as a part of the STEM Learning Ecosystems Community of Practice, the NeoSTEM Ecosystem holds regular virtual and in-person meetings to learn about what community educational needs are and to develop solutions for those needs. For more information, please contact us at info@neostem.org.

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