



Fifth-graders Kelsey Caruth, left, 11, and Rachel Suen, 10, join third-grader Taylor Lenhart, 9, to work on a lighting project Wednesday. The East Elementary School students are part of a six-week after-school program hosted by Mad Science of Central Iowa

East Elementary students go mad for science

After-school program hosted by Mad Science gets East Elementary students to stay after class for science experiments.

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Science and experiments are filling classrooms after school at East Elementary School in Ankeny.

Some students at the school, 710 East Third St., are participating in an after-school program put on by Mad Science of Central Iowa and sponsored by East Elementary.

"It's fun because you get to learn about science and be with your friends," said third-grader Kylie Regensburger, 9, of Ankeny.

Mad Science is an enrichment program where children do a variety of experiments and learn about different facets of science.

Franchise owner Jim Birkel of Pella said the mission is to "spark the imagination of all children in regards to science."

Birkel said aside from the franchise goal, he has a personal goal. He said whatever level of science a student was planning to take in school, he hopes that Mad Science will encourage them to move up one more.

Students participating in the after-school program experimented with basic electricity March 7.



Fourth-grader Leah Breitman, 10, works on wiring a light with a battery Wednesday at East Elementary School's Mad Science after-school program

"I think it's very neat because of all the science things we are doing," said third-grader Phillip Sinet, 9, of Ankeny. "I like doing all the experiments. I learned how static electricity works."

Fifth-grader Jessica Merrill, 10, of Ankeny said she likes doing the take-home experiment each week, where students get to show off what they learned to parents and friends.

"I think it's fun and we do a lot of neat experiments," she said. "Every week, we get to take something home, so that's pretty cool."

Third-grader Madison Martin, 8, of Ankeny said she likes watching the science experiments.

"If you rub a balloon on someone's head really hard, and if you put some Rice Krispies down and don't touch them, they will stick to the balloon," she said. "It was really cool."

Fifth-grader Jacob Buys, 10, of Ankeny said it is fun to learn about science and hang out with peers.

"It's fun doing all the experiments and being with my friends after school," he said. "I've learned about electricity and static energy."

