



The PLTW Gateway To Technology Program is taught in conjunction with a rigorous academic curriculum. At OL Slaton, the hands-on, project-based program is divided into six independent semester-long units. Each unit is self-encompassing so students may take PLTW in any or all grade levels. However, every PLTW course emphasizes the same engineering design process used by high schools, universities and professional engineers.

PLTW students are encouraged to experience engineering outside the classroom. They have competed in engineering competitions, toured state of the art industry and university facilities, and even partnered with the OL Slaton Theatre Department to bring animatronics to the stage. Students at OL Slaton can continue PLTW at Monterey High School, where they may choose an Engineering, Biomedical Science, or Computer Science track. Students even have the ability to earn college credit through a partnership with PLTW affiliate University of Texas at Tyler.



Gateway to Technology 1 – Grade 6

Flight & Space

Explore the science of flight and build and test a variety of flying machines including rockets, gliders and more.

Energy & the Environment

Investigate modern sources of energy and explore how they contribute to the demands of modern society.

Gateway to Technology 2 – Grade 7

Design & Modeling

The engineering design process is used to solve a variety of real world problems, with an emphasis on using computer models

Automation & Robotics

Design mechanical systems, sensing devices and computer programs to create several types of working robots.

Gateway to Technology 3 – Grade 8

Science of Technology

Explore the science and relevance of chemistry, physics and nanotechnology.

Medical Detectives

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease.

Igniting innovation through imagination and learning

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) prepares students to be the most innovative and productive leaders in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and to make meaningful, pioneering contributions to our world. PLTW partners with middle schools and high schools to provide a rigorous, relevant STEM education. Through an engaging, hands-on curriculum, PLTW encourages the development of problem-solving skills, critical thinking, creative and innovative reasoning, and a love for learning. The PLTW middle and high school STEM education programs give students a brighter future by providing them with a foundation and proven path to college and career success in STEM-related fields. STEM education is at the heart of today's high-tech, high-skill global economy.

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O. L. Slaton Middle School

