

Lewis Central Community School District

Titan Hill Intermediate School

Overview

What started as an independent effort by a former TAG educator has grown into a collaborative district initiative, backed by the support of their superintendent. By investing in educator professional development, Makerspace programming, and curriculum integration, the Lewis Central (LC) team is creating meaningful invention experiences that engage students and support teachers across the district.



“What inspired me most was seeing students identify real problems and create solutions that helped their community, animals, and environment. Through invention education and opportunities like the Iowa Invention Convention, we nurture creative thinkers, empower students to solve problems, and inspire them to build a better future.”

—Lanesa Godbout, Instructional Coach, Lewis Central CSD

2025-26 Snapshot

- Students impacted: 910
- Grade Levels: 2-5 grade
- Classrooms: 36
- Years Implementing: 2
- Accessibility: Tier 1 (*available to ALL students*)

Journey

- Before 2025: *A former LC TAG educator led Iowa Invention Convention (IIC) efforts*
- IIC State Finals 2025: *LC students and Superintendent attended, one advanced to nationals*
- Fall 2025: *LC Superintendent had desire for invention education to be district-wide, 5 LC educators attended Sprint to Invent PD*
- Late Fall 2025: *910 LC students participated in an iNVENT iT activity then chose to continue inventing (outside of school) with scheduled check-ins*
- IIC State Finals 2026: *LC students attended, two advanced to nationals*
- Spring 2026: *LC hosted their own version of Sprint to Invent PD for their educators*
- Summer 2026: *LC invention team co-facilitated Sprint to Invent PD with the Jacobson Institute team*

Invention Team @ LC

- Instructional Coach: Lanesa Godbout
Istatzer@lewiscentral.org
- K-3 TAG Educator: Melissa Taylor
melissa.taylor@lewiscentral.org
- 4-7 TAG Educator: Kate White
kwhite@lewiscentral.org

Champions @ LC

- Superintendent: Dr. Brenton Hoelsing
- TAG and Instructional Coach: Lisa Scieszinski (former implementer)
- School Improvement & TAG Coordinator: Lora Kester



Future

- Continue to grow the Iowa Invention Convention program by following our elementary students who participated, into middle school—we already found a middle school educator to partner with.
- Build a pipeline from elementary to middle to high school starting with invention education, building on that invention process, and eventually integrating entrepreneurship education.



“Our elementary students are still excited to invent, so we want to keep that momentum going in the intermediate building. Adding a passionate teacher will help us grow our Iowa Invention Convention program across the district. We’ll plan to add one grade level each year for the next three years!”

—Kate White, 4-7 TAG Educator, Lewis Central CSD

A Lesson Learned

After Sprint to Invent Professional Development, we were excited to hit the ground running and wanted this to be a program not just for TAG students, but for all students—Tier 1. With this, we moved fast and grew quickly.

Our ideal scenario would have been to have the invention process aligned with the school year and it could have looked more like this:

- **Summer:** select teachers go through Sprint to Invent PD, hosted by the Jacobson Institute
- **Early Fall:** we host our own version of the PD with our LC teachers and students get started with their logbooks in class—work through identifying, understanding, ideating, design/research
- **Late Fall/Winter:** students build and test in the MakerSpace then go back to the classroom to do communicating and branding
- **Spring:** we host our local event then attend Iowa Invention Convention State Finals

But, we didn’t want to wait and we wanted to implement invention and impact students, right away. We’ll plan to follow this more ideal scenario for the 2026-27 school year.

Resources @ LC

- Slides: revamped Sprint to Invent PD slides
- Makerspace: consumable and recycled materials
- Laminated Posters: scenarios, What is Invention?, Invention Process, and SCAMPER
- Google Classroom: Patent and research sites, Idea Padlet
- YouTube Read Aloud
- Standards: aligned activities and curriculum to standards

