



Virtual schooling coordinator Stacey King who has been acknowledged for her program that helps juniors transition from primary to secondary school. Picture: Patria Jannides

Logan

Mabel Park State High teacher makes maths matter

Sarah Orr, Quest Newspapers

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MANY remember arithmetic, flicking through a colossal textbook in a silent classroom, but that's not the case at Mabel Park State High School.

Students crowd around an augmented reality sand pit, learn volume and capacity with 3D printers and share ideas by using liquid chalk on windows.

Maths and science teacher Stacey King is inspiring the next generation of engineers and inventors through her practical methods which place the students in charge of their own learning experience.

“Remember the old days, you’d pull out your math text book, learn about volume and capacity and do exercises? Kids would look up and the teacher and say, ‘why are we learning this, what does it mean, will we ever use this’,” she said.

“I didn’t like how I was taught at school. I was part of a generation where we learned as individuals and couldn’t make noise.

“This is a different type of thinking. You create excitement about learning, you have a project and use technology to inspire and build your curriculum.”

Instead of leaning on textbook examples, Ms King tasks her students with real-world missions to give content greater meaning.

“We have a project in Year Nine where students learn about packaging and it’s all about volume, capacity and measurement. (They) print their own 3D aeroplane, learn how get the motor working, then design the package and write a persuasive text to sell their toy.”

Last year Ms King was recognised nationally for her work mentoring female students with a Choose Maths Award.

Now refusing to rest on her laurels, the dedicated educator will join forces with the Enable initiative to develop a STEM network for other Logan schools.