

Education Partnerships

In partnership with local science classes, Vulcan features its quarries as giant outdoor classrooms and its personnel as instructors.

Vulcan is proud to sponsor a robust Adopt-a-School program through which it partners with local school districts within the community and utilizes its facilities' natural assets to enhance local learning.

During Earth Science Day each year at the McCook Quarry, the entire school district visits and learns about geology. The program allows students to learn firsthand how science, technology and engineering are used every day to better the world around them.

Lessons focus on an array of rock-related topics, giving students the opportunity to learn directly from Vulcan's experts in the field. The Vulcan team discusses and demonstrates how limestone is formed, what technologies are used to explore natural resources for limestone, how limestone is mined and how land is reclaimed.

Vulcan's Adopt-a-School program includes partnerships with several elementary schools. A grant from Vulcan's Francesville Quarry supports science-based curriculum at West Central Elementary School. Another grant from Daugherty Sand and Gravel supports Mayflower Mill Elementary's efforts to improve future educational development. Also through a local Adopt-a-School partnership, the Manteno Quarry has donated a fossil cabinet to the Manteno Middle School. The fossil cabinet holds fossil and rock samples provided from the quarry.

Supporting local school programs and improving the quality of education is an investment in the future and helps cultivate tomorrow's workforce.



STEM LEARNING

In Joliet, Vulcan partners with area educators making STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) relevant for teachers. With this successful partnership, teachers are encouraged to take what they learn from STEM and incorporate the experience when teaching students science, technology, engineering, and math.

Teachers have the opportunity to learn how STEM learning is used every day at Vulcan. They also are taken on an educational bus tour, hundreds of feet below ground at the Laraway Quarry. A description of daily work, along with sustainability practices is also provided.

The event is a great opportunity for teachers to take back and share with students the real-world applicability of what they are learning in the classroom. Educators appreciate being able to relate what they are teaching in the classroom to career options for students.