**STEM Zoo needs HELP!!!**

Dear STEM Families,

Last year with your help, dedication and support we were able to experience our second successful year with our amazing STEM Pets. Students raised money and brought two very loving chinchillas here to STEM. We have been able to watch them grow, and truly learn first hand how their body structure helps them survive in the wild. We also have a better understanding of camouflage by observing our anoles, what it looks like when fish swim in schools and how a cold blooded reptile regulates its body temperature all because of our STEM Pets. It has been your generous donations that have helped keep this program afloat. I look to you today to continue the support you have provided this incredibly unique program.

I am asking that every student donate $4.00 averaging one dollar a quarter to help pay for the supplies that we need to run an efficient zoo. I understand that costs for families are high right now, which is why I truly appreciate your support. You may donate with cash or make checks payable to STEM Magnet Academy and write STEM ZOO in the memo section. If you would prefer to donate supplies I have typed a list of things we are in desperate need of this year on the back of this letter.

I hope you will really consider helping keep this program alive that has provided joy and learning to over 420 students here at STEM the past two years. I can assure you that no other school in the district has provided their students with such a unique and memorable learning opportunity. It is your support, help and dedication that have helped keep this program alive.

Let’s HELP our pets!!!!

Sincerely,

Ms. Lohitsa ☺

STEM Science Specialist

**STEM Zoo Supply List**

(1) Wire play cage for chinchillas and bunnies

(1) Cloth lid to cover wire play cage for chinchillas and bunnies

(6) UVB Light bulbs for reptiles

(6) 40 watt blue daylight bulbs for reptiles or amphibians

(6) 40 watt basking light bulbs for reptiles

(4) 40 watt black night light bulbs

(3) Reptile single light lamp fixtures

(4) light timers

(30) 20 gallon fish filters

(6) Rat chew toys made of wood

(1) Wooden rat house

(5) Bags of rat food

(3) Reptile mister/humidifier for 10 gallon tanks

(1) Reptile mister/ humidifier for 40 gallon tank (for ball python)

(5) Bags of birdseed

(1) Wooden perch sticks for parakeets (large and small)

(5) Packages of timothy hay from Oxbow

(5) Packages of chinchilla pellets from Oxbow

(1) Chinchilla hay trough- no plastic! It’s poisonous

(2) Glass water bottles

(5) Containers of dust for a chinchilla dust bath

(6) Chinchilla chew toys made of wood or pumice stone

(1) Large chinchilla exercise wheel

(3) Fish tank dechlorinators – tetra aquasafe plus

(1) Aquarium thermometer that will stick to the inside of the fish tank

(1) Eco-bio block

(6) Plastic plants that are safe to put in reptile tanks (snake and gecko)

(3) Bags of repti-bark

(2) Eco earth coconut husk bedding

(3) Aspen snake bedding

(35) Large frozen mice

(1) 40 gallon tank with a lid for the tortoise- his tank is too small for him.

(4) Cuttle bones for the tortoise

(6) Cuttle bones for the parakeets

(1) Ladder for the parakeets to climb in their cage

Those are the supplies we need in order to last the duration of the 2014-2015 school year. I unfortunately can’t buy crickets and mealworms in bulk because they die within 30 hours. I will always welcome small crickets because most of our reptiles use that as their main source of food. I also always accept fresh veggies like romaine lettuce, kale, shredded carrots and apple slices for our tortoise and parakeets ☺