

Catapult Challenge

The third Engineering challenge of the year involved teams of four creating a simple catapult.

The problem: You need to move some materials from one place to another with the help of a simple machine. Keeping what you know about force and motion in mind, your challenge is to design the catapult that will launch a projectile to hit a six-inch target that is 36 inches away.

Your Goal: Using supplies available to you, build the catapult that will launch your chosen projectile the furthest and closest to the target.

The materials were limited to:

- Small craft sticks 10 altogether
- Rubber bands 6 or less
- Plastic spoon
- Binder clip
- Plastic cup
- Clothespin
- Tape 2 feet
- String 2 feet
- 3 X 5 Card

There were eight groups or teams that competed. Each group planned, designed, constructed and tested their “catapults”. Several teams built a sling shot mechanism but quickly learned that their results were inconsistent. The best design was a group of four freshman that built a catapult that launched the Hershey kiss into the cafeteria ceiling. The material and timing constraints proved difficult. Four teams earned prizes.

Twenty five members of the engineering club are set to participate at NASA this Friday with groups from Beaumont High School and St. Edwards in a Manufacturing Day event.

Go Bengals!!

