

# BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS DeTECHTIVES



## ABOUT

DeTECHtives is a challenge-based instructional technology program for students in grades 4–8. The program gives students the opportunity to develop problem-solving, research, and collaboration skills while tackling authentic, real-world challenges. Using the design thinking process and a variety of technology tools, students work in teams to investigate local issues, brainstorm innovative solutions, and present their ideas in a “Shark Tank”-style showcase.

DeTECHtives empowers students to think critically, act creatively, and apply technology in meaningful ways. By working together on challenges connected to their schools and communities, students gain valuable 21st-century skills, preparing them for future academic and career pathways.

## PROGRAM COMPONENTS

### School Year Program

- Students work in collaborative teams to investigate a local challenge and design a solution using digital tools.
- Teams follow the design process (empathize, define, ideate, prototype, test, and present).
- Students present their final solutions to a panel of educators, peers, and community members in a “Shark Tank”-style showcase.

### Authentic Challenges

- Real-World Issues: Challenges are tied to needs within the district or community (e.g., repurposing the IT Tech Van for student and community impact).
- Student-Centered Inquiry: Students drive the process, from researching the problem to prototyping solutions.
- Technology Integration: Students use a variety of digital tools—such as presentation software, video production, coding platforms, and design apps—to bring their solutions to life.

### Leadership and Skill Development

- Students practice and strengthen collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills.
- Opportunities to build confidence in public speaking and presenting through the showcase format.
- Exposure to STEM and innovation careers through applied problem-solving and technology-rich experiences.

## MISSION & CORE VALUES

DeTECHtives engages students in authentic problem-solving experiences where they investigate local challenges, design creative solutions, and present their ideas in a collaborative “shark tank” style format. By combining research, teamwork, and technology, students develop the skills and confidence to lead as innovators and change-makers.

### Core Values:

- ✓ **Curiosity**-We ask questions, explore ideas, and dig deeper to uncover solutions.
- ✓ **Innovation**-We embrace creativity and technology to design bold, new approaches.
- ✓ **Collaboration**-We learn from each other and succeed as a team.
- ✓ **Community Impact**- We focus on solutions that make a difference for our schools and neighborhoods.
- ✓ **Resilience**-We persist through challenges and learn from every step of the design process.

