

3-D Printing Vocabulary

Workplane- Blue grid surface where you build your model using a 3-D program

Camera Navigation Buttons- use these to navigate around your workplane

.stl- A 3-D printing file format

3-D File- an electronic file representing a 3-D object

C.A.D.- Computer Aided Design-using a computer to aid in the creation or modification of a 3-D design

Curing- the process of hardening a liquid or other material (filament) to produce its final form

Extrude- placing the build material on the build platform normally by heating it up to a liquid state and pushing it through a small nozzle (extruder)

G-Code- a programming language used to tell computerized machine tools what to make and how to make it

Infill- the interior structure of a 3-D model. I usually a printed mesh rather than solid to save plastic

Print Bed or Build Plate- the surface of the 3-D printer on which the 3-D printed part is formed

Raft-a technique to prevent warping. A flat layer of support material which is printed below the actual 3-D printer.

Shell- represents the outer wall of the 3-D print

Slice-A single layer of a 3-D printed model

Thermoplastic-a polymer that becomes moldable above a specific temperature and returns to a solid state upon cooling

Subtractive Manufacturing- taking away from a larger piece of material (wood working)

Additive manufacturing- joining materials to make an object from a 3-D model- layer by layer

Digital Fabrication- taking a design and turning it into a real physical object.