



## MathScience Innovation Center

*Imagine. Create. Lead.*

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A Consortium of 8 Public School Divisions  
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### 893 Students Attend 2009 Summer Session for Rising 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

In July the MathScience Innovation Center offered three weeks of week long half-day sessions for rising 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Doug Childers, Coordinator of Saturday and Summer Programs at the MathScience Innovation Center said “these three weeks were amazingly smooth. Wonderful children truly were engaged in their courses. Many were “repeat” participants and many did both a morning and an afternoon course in the same week.”

The 28 course offerings ranged from *Crime Scene Chemistry* where the students solved a crime using chromatography and fingerprinting to *Digital Microscopy* where the students used an assortment of microscopes in their investigations.

When asked about their experiences, students commented:

- *“I liked how the teachers kept it real and didn’t baby us.”*
- *“I liked how we got to do sooo much with computers and cameras. Each day we had something fun to do.”*
- *“This class taught me how to use microscopes including the Qx3 digital microscope. It also taught me more than I would learn in school.”*
- *....”I learned about bucky balls and nanowires. It was fun experimenting with things on the macro-scale and then seeing how things change at the nano-scale.”*
- *“I liked the microscope part... and we got to go down to the river so we could make ‘pastry dishes’ with living organisms... it was gross but really fun seeing fish swim around in the dishes.”*

Students came from all around Central Virginia: 296 were from Chesterfield; 18 were from Colonial Heights; 98 were from Hanover; 248 were from Henrico; 5 were from King William; 12 were from Powhatan; 39 were from Richmond, and 156 from Private Schools or other divisions.

The MathScience Innovation Center is proud to be the leader of K-12 math and science education for the eight Central Virginia school divisions within our forty-three year old Consortium (Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Hanover, Henrico, King William, Petersburg, Powhatan and Richmond Public Schools) and the capacity building workforce program for K-12 educators and students that provides expanded opportunities to learn about emerging fields (fractal geometry, engineering, nanotechnology, environmental modeling) and effective ways to integrate within the curriculum.