



## MathScience Innovation Center

*Imagine. Create. Lead.*

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A Consortium of 8 Public School Divisions  
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### 127 Middle School Students Attend Inaugural *Let's Innovate Conference* for 6-8 Graders

On Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, the MathScience Innovation Center debuted its first Student Conferences for middle school students. The audience for the December 5th event was 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Central Virginia.

The keynote speaker was Michael Smith-Welch, Principal in the Playful Invention Company and collaborator with the MIT Media Lab. He spoke about learning through engineering, art and design. He also conducted one of the break-out sessions that explored a new programming language called *Scratch*.

Students then moved through 3 of 9 session of their choice. The 9 session topics and their speakers included:

- *Hollywood-MathStyle!*
  - Carrie Persing, Faculty, MathScience Innovation Center
- *Hovering Into the Future*
  - Kristine Vester, Faculty, MathScience Innovation Center
- *Innovations in Architecture and the Environment*
  - Roberto Ventura, LEED AP,  
Department of Interior Design, Virginia Commonwealth University
- *In the Mood for Nano*
  - Cheri Kelleher, Faculty, MathScience Innovation Center
- *Probing Your Environment*
  - Rachel Martin, Faculty, MathScience Innovation Center
- *Molecular Diagnostics: A Key to Detecting Disease*
  - Dr. Patricia Hentosh and Sterling Thomas  
School of Medical Laboratory and Radiation Sciences, Old Dominion University
- *Scratch It Up!*
  - Michael Smith-Welch, Educator in Art, Inquiry and Creative Learning
- *The Mystery of Mentos*
  - William Mahoney, Nanofabrication Engineering Facility, Pennsylvania State University
  - Gary Burleigh, Faculty, MathScience Innovation Center
- *What Do Engineers Do, and Why Should I Care?*
  - Bill Rhyne, Faculty, MathScience Innovation Center

Students came from 6 school divisions: 56 from Chesterfield; 26 from Hanover; 29 from Henrico; 9 from Petersburg; 1 from Powhatan; and 5 from Richmond.

The 56 Chesterfield students included 5 from Bailey Bridge MS (Gabrielle Allen, Zahra Aly, Itzel Bonilla, Thomas Gann and Jenna Johnson); 1 from Carver MS(Matthew Swanson); 4 from Chester MS (Makalah Cribb, Eric Crump, Kaitlyn Eggleston and Andrew Miller); 9 from Elizabeth Davis MS (Jordan Barnes, Rachel Clemons, William Correia, John Kan, Aman Kapadia, Billy Koob, Caleb Mabry, Kalp Maniar, King Nguyen, Veronica Pannell and Christian White); 2 from Falling Creek MS (Natasjha Isidoro and Sierra Johnson); 5 from Manchester MS (Ana Gautreau, Miles Hicks, Aaron Massey, Ben Millefolie and Mansoor Syed); 4 from Matoaca MS (Julie Bates, Jacob Getzler, Brianna Hayes and Caleel King); 6 from Midlothian MS (Madison Brinkman, Kirsten Clamann, Jackson Gillie, Anthony Lafata, R. Lisa Wang and Alan Zhang); 9 from Robious MS (Joshua Das, Eric Elfein, Peter Felland, Patrick Gillis, Jordan Moghanaki, Nyle Rodgers, Justin Smith, Eric Somerville and Samuel Zabel); 3 from Swift Creek MS (Jordan Lawrence, Zachary Lawrence and David VanScoik); and 6 from Tomahawk Creek MS (Zachary Hagan, Ian Krauss, Ali Muhammed, Karim Muhammed, Campbell Raley and Quentin Simoneaux).

The 26 Hanover students included 9 from Chickahominy MS (Nathaniel Bilodeau, Ethan Cruikshank, Connor Floyd, Aiden Gowland, Dante Monasterio, Mitch Palmer, Matthew Sweeney, Jonathan Willing and Savannah Wilson); 9 from Liberty MS (Linda Felgenhauser, Peter Felgenhauser, Leah Goggin, Lauren Jones, Emily Kurtzweil, Tyler Phillips, Carlee Porch, Mikey Ruiz and Austin Walsh); and 8 from Stonewall Jackson MS (Robert Crawford, Andy Jackson, Ryan Lucia, Logan Mahoney, Lauren Negvesky, Michael Pemberton, Joseph Pride and Will Rice).

The 29 Henrico students included 2 from Brookland MS (Ferwa Abbas and Christopher Bailey); 2 from Byrd MS ( Daniel McCarthy and Chris Williams); 1 from Fairfield MS (Sheaniqua Jones); 4 from John Rolfe MS (Ashly Adkins, Kichelle Day, Kennedy Goldsborough and Kandis Washington); 1 from Hungary Creek (Brady Clem); 13 from Moody MS (Tanisha Agarwala, Amy Chen, Kevin Chen, Charles Hines, Julia Lantzy, Anthony Lin, Krishna Ravindra, Zachary Savage, Lynette Sequeira, Seam Sequeira, Madison Tang, Venson Vaughn and Sydney Vick); 1 from Mount Vernon MS (KoRon Stewart); 2 from Pocahontas MS (Jarrett Bender and Lauren Bender); 3 from Short Pump MS (Aleena Khan, Grace Kim and Aalok Shah); and 1 from Wilder MS (Kyle Snead).

The 9 students from Petersburg all attend Peabody MS (Teleah Ampy, Sabrina Bishop, Talayha Gilliam, Taliah Gilliam, Diamond Hayes, La-Kiesha Hobbs, Jayla Lewis, Steffond Swilley and Kourtnei Wise).

The student from Powhatan was Monica Plumb from Pocahontas MS.

The 5 Richmond students included 2 from Albert Hill MS (Abhisek Damle and Ahmed Woodson-Maragh); 1 from Henderson MS (Stefan Woodson); and 2 from Lucille Brown MS (William Hewlett and Robert Hicks).



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.