



# MathScience Innovation Center

*Imagine. Create. Lead.*

Contact: Robin Newton  
Tel. (804) 343-6525  
Email: [prelease@msinnovation.info](mailto:prelease@msinnovation.info)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 7, 2008

## **970 STUDENTS ENJOY LEARNING DURING THE SUMMER AT MSiC**

31 programs offered range from geology, robotics, the arts, and more

Where can a sixth grader honestly say that she had fun “Sketching houses, drawing floor plans, and learning about architects and different types of architecture” this summer? Lauren Jones, a student from Liberty Middle School, one of 970 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students, learned real architectural concepts and programs, while others got their hands on robots, colonial-era artifacts, aquatic creatures, and more in a series of summer programs at the MathScience Innovation Center. Thirteen one-week programs were offered for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, nine for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders, and nine for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and were available from July 14 until August 1.

Two new programs debuted this summer – one for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders and one for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. “Green Building for the Future” focused on environmental impact of the average home and what technologies are being developed to improve energy efficiency and lower the cost to implement these changes. In “Building Virtual Landscapes,” participants did just that by using two software programs, MoJo World and Terragen, to create their very own planets based on the principles of fractal geometry.

The programs, however, were sometimes worth more than something fun to do over the summer. Johnathan Hostetler, a seventh grader from Robious Middle School wrote that the engineering class “was interesting to me because it gave me a new understanding to what my Dad does.”

Vikram Ramnarain, a seventh grader at Providence Middle School, said that he liked “the equipment and materials that we used; it made me feel like I was a real forensic chemist,” adding that “this class really made me think, ‘Hmmm, maybe I will do something in forensics when I grow up.’”

On the other hand, Henry D. Ward Elementary School fifth grader Fatima Nayani said that she liked “Snap, Crackle, Pop! Chemistry” simply because “We blew stuff up and made ice cream.”

Of the 970 students that participated:

- 249 attend Chesterfield County Public Schools.
- 15 attend Colonial Heights Public Schools.
- 124 attend Hanover County Public Schools.
- 315 attend Henrico County Public Schools.
- Five attend Hopewell County Public Schools.
- Six attend King William Public Schools.
- Three attend New Kent County Public Schools.
- 156 attend Metro Richmond area private schools.
- 29 attend Powhatan County Public Schools.
- Three attend Prince George County Public Schools.
- 26 attend Richmond City Public Schools.
- 12 attend The Steward School.
- 27 attend other public schools.

The MathScience Innovation Center is a 42-year-old organization dedicated to futuristic math and science education for K-12 teachers and students. Its vision for 2015 focuses on implementing new programs in fractal geometry, engineering, nanotechnology, environmental modeling, and distance learning. The MathScience Innovation Center is an educational consortium comprised of eight school divisions: Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Hanover, Henrico, King William, Petersburg, Powhatan, and Richmond. Other divisions also participate through abbreviated memberships: Charles City, Hopewell, Prince George, and the Steward School.