MathScience Innovation Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 5, 2008

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR FALL 2008 SATURDAY STUDENT PROGRAMS

17 Math and Science Classes for 4th, 5th, 9th-12th Graders

The MathScience Innovation Center has announced its list of classes for fall 2008 for Metro Richmond area students from the 4th and 5th grades and high school. The 4th and 5th grade programs will meet on October 18 and 25 and November 1, 8, and 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration is available online at http://www.msinnovation.info and costs $25. Applications received by September 30 receive priority.

The high school programs meet for one day from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m, and cost $15. Applications are available online at http://www.msinnovation.info and those received by October 3 will receive priority.

The twelve programs offered for 4th and 5th graders include:

Computer Math Games: Play and create your own computer games and take the final product home with you!

Crime Scene Chemistry: Become a Junior Chemist and learn about chromatography, fingerprinting, and how chemicals interact. Use these techniques to identify the culprit!

Electric Gadgets: Build and test a Leyden jar, electrometer, and a galvanometer and use them to discover the concepts of electricity and magnetism.

Exploring the James River: Examine every aspect of the James River, from the plants and animals to the rocks and water with a field trip to the river itself.

LEGO: Machines and Robots: Learn how to build and program vehicles robots using only LEGO bricks!

Nature's Secrets: Connect art and the natural world through digital photography!

Ocean Odyssey: Learn about the earth's largest biome! How hard is the life of a baby sea turtle? Why is the ocean salty? What is echolocation and how do animals such as dolphins and whales use it?

Rocks, Crystals and Gems: Use microscopes, lasers, and other equipment to identify and study Virginia's rocks, minerals, and gems and go on a field trip to collect specimens!

Scene It: Create movies with the Center's equipment and learn the ins and outs of movie production, from start to finish.

Slippery, Slimy Odd Pets: Visit local wetlands and study organisms in their natural habitat and create artificial habitats for all sorts of creatures. Students will take home at least one animal.

Snap, Crackle, Pop! Chemistry: Work in a real chemistry lab and make ice cream, invisible ink, and "goo!"

Topics in Math, which teaches fifth graders about number systems, famous mathematicians, and more.

Five classes are being offered for 9^{th}-12^{th} graders:

Incubating Ideas into Inventions (October 18): Students will tour the Virginia BioTechnology Research Park and will both conduct hands-on design and build activities to develop your own ideas for new biotech inventions and products.

Fractal Phenomena (October 25): Learn about fractal geometry at the MathScience Innovation Center and how fractals are used to make predictions about the natural world, from cancer growth to movie production!

Architecture, Design, and the Environment (November 1): How can architects find a balance between the natural environment and the built environment? Students will also meet a professional architect and take a behind-the-scenes tour of the Virginia Center for Architecture.

Biomedical Engineering: Replicating the Human Factor (November 8): How is science fighting the ravages of aging, disease, and trauma on the human body? Students work with VCU's Dr. Gerald Miller and see first-hand how artificial hearts, medical imaging systems, and new advances in tissue and body "replacement" may affect the quality of your life in the future.

Nanotechnology: Revealing Unseen Worlds (November 15): Dr. Alison Baski of VCU will lead students to explore nanotechnology by using some of the most advanced technology in the field and conducting a number of studies into the latest innovations and developments.

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.