



# MathScience Innovation Center

*Imagine. Create. Lead.*

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## **STUDENTS HAVE FUN LEARNING IN THE SUMMER AT GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Six programs for gifted middle school students apply math and science fundamentals to a variety of careers

A classroom of middle school students were told that they were going to be dealing with blood, drugs, death, DNA, and more as they were preparing to examine the evidence of a crime scene. However, they weren't traveling with a detective, but these children were learning what sort of science is used at and behind the scenes through a series of hands-on laboratory experiments. This class on forensic investigation was just one of six courses offered at this year's Regional Governor's School for middle school youth.

A total of 144 gifted students from the Metro Richmond area came to the MathScience Innovation Center in Richmond, Va. to learn about new technological innovations in space exploration, LEGO Robotics, forensic science, virtual reality, fractal geometry, or architecture. Thirteen school divisions were eligible to send their gifted students to the programs: Caroline, Charles City County, Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, Hopewell, New Kent, Petersburg, Powhatan, Prince George, and Richmond. Eight private schools also participated: Millwood School, Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, Rudlin Torah Academy, St. Benedict, St. Bridget's School, St. Christopher's School, St. Edward-Epiphany School, and St. Michael's School.

Three programs were available for sixth grade students to participate in: "Explore New Technologies for Space" focused on new technologies in space exploration; students built vehicles and robots and set them into motion by programming the LEGO NXT "brain" in "LEGO-Robotics Challenges;" and forensic investigation skills and scientific techniques were explored in "CSI: Student Academy."

Seventh and eighth graders were able to choose between three different programs, as well: those in “Seeing is Being; Virtual Worlds” learned how to create virtual worlds, video, audio podcasts, and web sites using scientific and mathematical principles; “Fractals: Where Math, Art and Science Meet” explored exactly that, and how fractal geometry is found in nature and used for camouflage, architecture, and more; and students in “From the Ground Up” worked with professional architects to learn the skills required for the job, which they applied to several different projects.

At the end of the sessions, the students filled out satisfaction surveys. Some students wrote that they enjoyed the laboratory work because it allowed them to apply what they had learned and prove that they had learned it. For others, the friends that they made and the team assignments they were given were the best part about the class. But one student wrote, in exuberance: “I liked all the hands-on activities. I liked how they gave out prizes because it gave you something to work for. Finally, I liked all the group work we did and want to keep in touch with the new friends!”

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.

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Two students from Charles City Public Schools completed the “From the Ground Up” program: Nicole Belgard and Jacob Brown, who both attend Charles City Middle School.

31 students from Chesterfield County Public School completed Governor’s School programs:

- “CSI: Student Academy” was attended by Richie Cole of Providence Middle School; Tatum McKay, Caitlyn O’Brien, and Grace Oh of Matoaca Middle School; and Zara Siddiqui of Midlothian Middle School.
- “Explore New Technologies for Space” saw Bailey Galstan of Chester Middle School and Stephen Stepp of Midlothian Middle School in attendance.
- Five students completed “Fractals: Where Math, Art and Science Meet:” Hannah Bennett of Matoaca Middle School, Kari Brookmire and Hunter O’Neill from Providence Middle School, and Miles Greatwood and Emma Williamson of Manchester Middle School.

- “From the Ground Up” was attended by Rachel Galton of Matoaca Middle School.
- “LEGO – Robotics Challenge” engaged Jacob Getzler, Brianna Moore, and Gregory Scott of Matoaca Middle School; Jacob Mendel and John Williamson of Manchester Middle School; and Stephen Thompson of Carver Middle School.
- “Seeing is Being: Virtual Worlds” was attended by: John Google of Providence Middle School, Emma Copeland, Reed Dibich of Manchester Middle School, Dylan David of Carver Middle School.

One student from Colonial Heights Public Schools, Andrea Zhou of Colonial Heights Middle School, completed “Seeing is Being: Virtual Worlds.”

13 students from Hanover County Public Schools completed Governor’s School programs:

- “CSI: Student Academy” was attended by Chelsea Matthews and Emily Nicholson, both from Stonewall Jackson Middle School.
- “Explore New Technologies for Space” saw Linda Felgenhauer and Leah Gogging, both from Liberty Middle School, and Nirali Jantrania from Chickahominy Middle School in attendance.
- “From the Ground Up” was attended by Thomas Moore and Matthew Peery, both from Chickahominy Middle School, and Bonny Turnage from Stonewall Jackson Middle School.
- “LEGO – Robotics Challenge” engaged Jordan Flammia of Stonewall Jackson Middle School and Laura Sale of Liberty Middle School.
- “Seeing is Being: Virtual Worlds” was attended by: Kolby Griffin from Chickahominy Middle School, Tyler Kittel from Liberty Middle School, and John Roakes from Oak Knoll Middle School.

51 students from Henrico County Public Schools completed Governor’s School programs:

- “CSI: Student Academy” was attended by the following:
  - From Byrd Middle School: Ulysses Avgeros, Holly Boyle, Kristie Turkal, and Dimitar Yanev.
  - From Elko Middle School: Chandra Fanus.
  - From Hungary Creek Middle School: Johnathan Morrisey.
  - From Moody Middle School: Brady Brown, Brooke Cable, Sayantane Das, Mavra Masood, Maya Ravindran, Sea Sequiera, Kristie Turkal, and Jordyn Wade.
  - From Pocahontas Middle School: Taku Harada.
- “Explore New Technologies for Space” saw Lakshmi Bodapati from Byrd Middle School, John Bowers from Tuckahoe Middle School, and Ashwin Murali, Cyrus Rohani-Shukla, and Stephen Tang from Moody Middle School in attendance.
- Nine students completed “Fractals: Where Math, Art and Science Meet:” John Darr, Jason Hunter, and Sheila Huynh from Pocahontas Middle School.

- School and Lauren Johnson, Davis Klabo, Raleigh Matteo, Serena Ngoh, Rohan Pidaparti, Garrick Sin, and Andrew Will from Moody Middle School.
- “From the Ground Up” taught Katherine Beam and Ashima Chadha of Short Pump Middle School, Kimberly Conley, Caper Gooden, Katharine Graham, Fadi Hijaz, Priyanka Kaushik, Laksmi Ravindra, Daniel Ruwe, Jordan Tang, Sara Taylor, Annie Weidhass, and Stephanie Zhang of Moody Middle School, Caleb Davis, Jacob Rich, and Joshua Rosenthal of Byrd Middle School, and Joshua Fung of Tuckahoe Middle School.
  - “LEGO – Robotics Challenge” engaged Michaela Gregory of Elko Middle School, Richard Li of Moody Middle School, and Hannah Kwawu and Kristen Woolard of Pocahontas Middle School.
  - “Seeing is Being: Virtual Worlds” was attended by: Thomas Burton of Hungary Creek Middle School, Saumil Bandyopadhyay, Peter Berinato, Karthik Chetty, Ayush Rohatgi, Samuel Schultz, and Anna Wong of Moody Middle School, Kriti Gangal of Short Pump Middle School, and Jonas Rogers of Tuckahoe Middle School.

Four students from Hopewell City Public Schools completed the programs: Katelyn Bridges finished “CSI: Student Academy,” Sarah Neal and Seth Powell completed “Explore New Technologies for Space,” and Hoyle Wang finished “From the Ground Up.” All four students attend Carter G. Woodson Middle School.

Six students from Goochland County Public Schools completed the programs: Danielle Martin, Freida Turner, and Hannah Wagner finished “CSI: Student Academy,” R. Scot Mitchell completed “From the Ground Up,” and Landom Reams and Drew Spivey completed “Seeing is Being: Virtual Worlds.” All of the students attend Goochland Middle School.

Two students from Powhatan County Public Schools completed “LEGO – Robotics Challenges:” Catherine Broyles and Lucas Nunley, both from Pocahontas Middle School.

Four students from Prince George County Public Schools completed the programs: Johnathan Cary and Tierah West finished “CSI: Student Academy” and Kevin Holt and Joshua Shank completed “LEGO – Robotics Challenges.” All four students attend J.E.J. Middle School.

Two students from Richmond City Public Schools completed the programs: Kyle Brady of Albert Hill Middle School finished “Fractals: Where Math, Art and Science Meet” and Benjamin Youngstone of Binford Middle School completed “Explore New Technologies for Space.”

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Three students from Millwood School completed the programs: Sky Festog, Jeanetta Fricke (“Explore New Technologies for Space”), and Jaz Harnal (“From the Ground Up”).

Seven students from Our Lady of Lourdes School completed the programs: Emily Brockenbrough, Jessie Maloney (“From the Ground Up”), Madison Caudill, Meghan Gallagher, Cassandra Wright (“Fractals: Where Math, Art and Science Meet”), Maya Johnson (“LEGO – Robotics Challenges”), and Rafael Magnant (“CSI: Student Academy”).

Four students from Rudlin Torah Academy completed the programs: Asher Ackman, Shoshana Bart, Gavriel Binshtok (“LEGO – Robotics Challenge”), Necheama Ben-Ezra, and Sara Goel (“CSI: Student Academy”).

Two students from St. Benedict School completed the programs: Kristian Hill (“CSI: Student Academy”) and Anna Jackson (“Fractals: Where Math, Art and Science Meet”).

Two students from St. Bridget’s School completed the programs: M. Alexander Fleckenstein (“Explore New Technologies for Space”) and Emma Lang (“CSI: Student Academy”).

One student from St. Christopher’s School completed the programs: Alexander Ball, who participated in “CSI: Student Academy.”

Four students from St. Edwards-Epiphanly School completed the programs: Walker Jones, Kevin Kaperick (“Seeing is Being: Virtual Worlds”), Alexandra Todd (“From the Ground Up”), and Gregory Winder (“LEGO – Robotics Challenge”).

Four students from St. Michael’s School completed the programs: William Greer (“CSI: Student Academy”), Marshall Irby, Rachel Johnson, and Kaila Mullaly (“Fractals: Where Math, Art and Science Meet”).

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WHAT: 144 gifted students from Metro Richmond schools completed Governor’s School programs, which covered space technology, fractal geometry, forensic science, and more.

WHEN: June 30 – July 10, 2008

WHERE: 2401 Hartman Street, Richmond, Va. 23223