

The Governor's School Of Southside Virginia Fall 2014 Newsletter

Opening Day Joint Site Event 2014

The Governor's School of Southside Virginia (GSSV) had its opening Joint Site event on August 18, 2014, at the Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center (VUMAC). It was a great opportunity to welcome former students and staff, as well as introduce the new juniors and instructors. Mrs. Leslie Poling (pictured at right) was introduced as the new Chemistry and Senior Research instructor. Mrs. Poling comes to us from Charlotte County.

It was a great day of fun as the students participated in games and activities brought to us from our GSSV staff and consultants from *Winning the Training Game, LLC*, a training and coaching company. The company provided activities that consisted of concepts involving Workplace Readiness Skills, Personal Finance, and Leadership and Ethics. The categories chosen were structured to teach concepts of a positive work ethic, diversity awareness, resource management, and creativity, as well as Leadership Basics, Reaching Goals, Decision Making, and Motivation. These activities not only allowed our students to discover strengths and share best practices but also gave students an opportunity for collaboration and creativity while building bonds and forming new relationships with their teammates.



Peter Pan's Neverland Comes to Keysville

On Friday, October 3, 2014, the Keysville site of the Governor's School of Southside Virginia hosted its annual outreach event for third graders from the seven feeder divisions that attend the John H. Daniel Campus of the Governor's School. Students from Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, and Prince Edward Counties were invited to this year's site-wide interdisciplinary event. Students from all three strands of the Governor's School, STEM, Humanities, and Respiratory Therapy, planned, organized, and executed the entire event. Planning started in May 2014 and continued throughout the summer and early fall. Students developed a rubric and designed twenty interactive stations for the students to enjoy. A vast array of characters, including pirates, Indians, fairies, Lost Boys, and the infamous crocodile, entertained their young guests. Stations included peg-leg races, obstacle courses, face painting, finger printing, plank walking, Indian culture and music, and mock sword fighting activities. The day concluded with Peter Pan-themed refreshments and prize bags for all participants. A great time was had by all participants, both young and old.

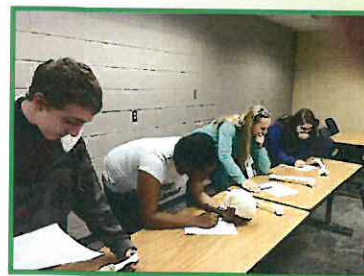
The Governor's School strives to instill an appreciation for outreach and community service in its students. The students enthusiastically welcomed the opportunity to share their diverse interests and creative skills and talents with their visitors.



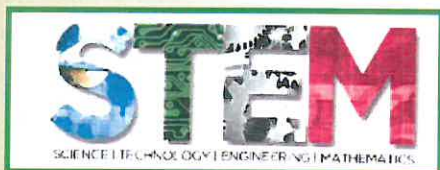
Respiratory Therapy Students Study

Anatomy & Physiology

The students enrolled in the Respiratory Therapy program are embarking on the study of the human body both on the molecular and the organismal levels. Their study involves conceptual and experiential activities ranging from the study of DNA, the skeletal, muscular and nervous systems during their first semester to the various organ systems during their second semester. The students have the unique opportunity to utilize the resources in the undergraduate anatomy & physiology lab at Southside Virginia Community College and to engage in inquiry-based activities which explore general physiological principles of living systems. The first experiential activity will be a tour of the VCU School of Medicine's Simulation Learning Lab which is planned for the first semester, where students will explore how medical school students engage in real-world simulations in a clinical setting. Another venture scheduled for second semester to VCU's cardiothoracic surgery unit will enable the students to remotely observe a thoracic surgeon performing a lung lobectomy. These experiences integrate the clinical world into the classroom providing opportunities for hands-on learning. The students have a heightened curiosity and excitement which can be brought back into the classroom through these extensions of classroom concepts. These extensions are wonderful opportunities to actualize the learning in a real-world setting.



STEMAPALOOZA!!!! BY INVITATION ONLY.....



On Friday, October 17th, a delegation of five STEM seniors and Mr. Tommy Wright, instructor of Information Systems Technology from the Keysville site traveled to Virginia State University to attend the STEMAPALOOZA event. Governor's School students participated in exciting hands on STEM workshops and attended scholarship informational sessions as well. Students attending this event were Wayland Goode, Zachary Maddox, Emily Newton, Kelsey Thornton, and Heather Wells.

Up, Up and Away

The STEM juniors celebrated National Chemistry Week and the conclusion of their gas laws' chapter by flying their own home made hot air balloons. Working alone or in teams of two, the students fashioned balloons out of tissue paper, glue and wire. Although they all had the same directions to follow, each balloon design was unique. Some had instant success with balloons floating higher than the building. Some had to modify their design before achieving flight. This exercise was a great finale to the gas unit as they made calculations to predict if the balloon would lift off. It was an even better exercise of the scientific process in action.



The Governor's School of Southside Virginia

Providing gifted, highly motivate juniors and seniors a challenging, interdisciplinary program of studies that develops leaders who possess the skills, global perspective, and vision needed to address the challenges of a rapidly changing society.

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