



Dorchester County  
Public Schools  
Every Child A Success!

# SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Diana L. Mitchell., Ed.D., Superintendent

DATE May 22, 2018

## Dorchester County Public Schools STEM Festival

On Thursday, April 26, 2018 the Dorchester County community and Dorchester County Public School (DCPS) staff came together to celebrate students in grades 6, 7, and 8 for their accomplishments at the DCPS STEM Festival. For a third year, a true STEM Festival component was incorporated into the festivities where families participated in fun STEM activities prior to the announcement of winners. The evening events brought a carnival-like atmosphere to our celebration thanks to activities hosted by: Discovery Education (Mr. Gary Beidleman and Mr. Jonothan Hwong); North Dorchester High School's Project Lead the Way Biomedical Teacher (Ms. Linda Barnes); and DCPS' Minority Achievement Task Force Initiative, All Eyes on Dorchester (Mr. Matthew Breedlove). This year's STEM Festival was an ultimate success due to both national and local partnerships. Judges for this year's event were courtesy of NorthBay Adventure, Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Horn Point Laboratory, Discovery Education, Choptank Community Health System, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy, Easton Dermatology, and DCPS high school science teachers.

This year the STEM Festival criteria was 100% STEM-focused: honing in on solving problems and giving students again the option of working as a STEM team. Students in each grade level had two challenges to choose from and a first, second, third, and honorable mention recognition was awarded in each category. Each first place winner received the ultimate STEM prize, a brand new tablet. STEM Festival ribbons were awarded to first place, second place, third place, and honorable mention participants. Every student who made it to the district level was a winner and received a certificate of participation, in addition these students will participate in the STEM Festival incentive field trips scheduled to take place May 29 – 30, 2018 at Horn Point Laboratory. The project of the year recipients also received gift cards to purchase STEM apps and cases for their new tablet.

The 2018 DCPS STEM Festival winners are as follows:

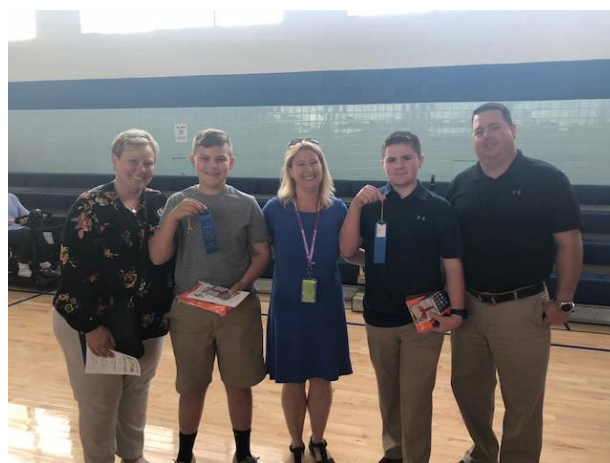
- At the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level, in the **Wind Turbine Category**:
  - Honorable Mention: **Alvaro Trejo-Trejo, NDMS**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Harry Hill, NDMS**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Rachid McMillan, MLMS**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: **John Foxwell & Franklin Pleitze, MLMS**
- At the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level, in the **Egg-O-Naut Category**:
  - Honorable Mention: **Mariah Griffin & Sanaa Fields, MLMS**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **John Boyle & Ryan Widmaier**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Randall Johnson, MLMS**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Luke Gadow & Addison Coale, NDMS**

- At the 7<sup>th</sup> grade level, in the **Gastrointestinal Tract Category:**
  - Honorable Mention: **Alexis Pete & Marissa Tobin, MLMS**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Emma Knopp, MLMS**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Katelyn Masden, MLMS**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Zachary Gorsuch & Ryan Henry, NDMS**
- At the 7<sup>th</sup> grade level, in the **Model of the Heart Category:**
  - Honorable Mention: **Gavin Whitman, NDMS**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Said Calderon, MLMS**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Sydney Weir & Gino Sacona, NDMS**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Madison Werner, SDS**
- At the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level, **Balsawood Glider Category:**
  - Honorable Mention: **Brittany Brown, MLMS**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Austin Windsor & Jackson Tieder, SDS**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Tristen Raughton & CJ Foster, NDMS**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Max Marshal, MLMS**
- At the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level, in the **Tower of Power Category:**
  - Honorable Mention: **Katelynn Donaldson & Lauren Webster, NDMS**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Cartney Jarrell & Raven Molock, NDMS**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Curstin Carpenter & Journey Jensen, NDMS**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place recipients: **Ben Knopp & Jacob Miller, MLMS**
- The overall winner and Project of the Year: **Zachary Gorsuch & Ryan Henry, NDMS**

The STEM Festival would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our middle school science teachers: Ms. Amber Aaron (NDMS), Ms. Hailey Arnold (MLMS), Ms. Karen Bowers (NDMS), Mrs. Angela Bozman (MLMS), Mrs. Stacey Brown (MLMS), Mrs. Jennifer Grubbs (NDMS), Ms. Chloe Hartung (MLMS), Mrs. Genna Hatfield (NDMS), Mrs. Wynne Moyers (NDMS), Mr. John Prekrel (MLMS), Mrs. Dawn Price (NDMS), Mrs. Cheyenne Roache (MLMS), Mrs. Jessica Suggs (SDS), and Mrs. Sherry Todd (SDS). Congratulations to all the students and stay tuned for the details surrounding next year's extravaganza.



Cheyenne Roache, 6<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher at MLMS, and John Foxwell, MLMS.



Melissa Henry, Ryan Henry, Mrs. Dawn Price, 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher, NDMS; Zachary Gorsuch, and Bill Gorsuch