



2401 Hartman Street, Richmond, VA 23223
A Consortium of 8 Public School Divisions
Contact: Robin Newton
804-343-6525 x 227
rnewton@msinnovation.info

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Third Annual “Building for the Future” Conference Trains 113 Elementary Educators, IT Specialists and Administrators

The super hot, triple digit weather Central Virginia experienced at the end of June did not deter 113 focused Central Virginia elementary educators from attending the third *Building for the Future* conference held at the MathScience Innovation Center on June 28-30. The conference stressed the need to prepare students for the future world and provided examples of how futuristic topics are linked to *Virginia’s Standards of Learning*.

This conference was made possible in part by a grant from the Richard and Caroline T. Gwathmey Memorial Trust.

The keynote speaker was Jane Kirkland, award-winning juvenile non-fiction author. Conference participants selected from among 69 concurrent sessions. The 2010 conference topics included engineering; science of the future; saving the earth; modeling and simulations; web work; cyber lessons; and mathematics focused on the “new” Virginia grade level objectives. This year there were an increased number of sessions that integrated math, science and technology.

Here’s what a few participants said about the conference:

This conference took away some of my fears in moving up to third grade. There are many ideas I will use in my third grade classroom.

Alison Perry, Chesterfield County Public Schools

Knowledgeable presenters, well aligned with SOL, covered essential topics that could be used to improve the students' performance in the classrooms

Mui Barron, Henrico County Public Schools

The sessions provided many hands-on, real world, and relevant materials that can be used with students. I loved the take home materials and activities. I also love that the materials are available on Moodle and can be accessed from school or home!

Jennifer Sanders, Hanover County Public Schools

Keva Planks - unbelievably awesome! Jane Kirkland - incredible, enthusiastic and so right!SOL

Shake-Up - Great game ideas and resources. STEM - Fabulous resources and lesson plans.

Scratch-ed - WOOOOOHOOOO!!!! Great stuff for me!

Cynthia Gino, Richmond Public Schools

Initiated as part of the MathScience Innovation Center's Mission – *to be the innovator, incubator and advocate of 21st century math and science* – the conference is designed to increase educators' understanding of futuristic areas of math and science, provide models and materials which educators can immediately use within their classrooms, and promote long-term change in divisions' core curricula.

For conference attendance, educators received Continuing Education Units, instructional materials, and honoraria. Within the Center's consortium are 139 elementary schools. Educators, technology specialists and administrators from the participating school districts and schools are listed below.

The 19 attendees from Chesterfield County Public Schools included: Amy Andrews, Jennifer Autry, Mary Hunter Ayer, Jamie Borowicz, Allison Couillard, Melissa Dagenhardt, Gayle Dillon, Kelly George, Emily Kaiser, Phyliss Karamarkivich, S. Hillary Logan, Beth Losego, Sana Loy-Anderson, Renee Osterbind, Alison Perry, Denise Quigley, Earin Renfro, Elizabeth Rhodes, and Emily Swain.

The 23 attendees from Hanover County Public Schools included Julie Cross, Julia Davis, Amber DePass, Susan DiBagno, Sheri Dixon, Pamela Dougherty, Amy Gordon, Bonnie Harvell, Ryan Heizer, Karen Herbert, Cathy Holmes, Ellen Hughes, Melinda Kemp, Nancy LeFevre, Tracey Magner, Nancy McCuiston, Jodi McLaughlin, Kimberly Peters, Jennifer Post, Marsha Rettig, Katie Rexrose, Jennifer Sanders, and Betsy Wilder.

The 26 attendees from Henrico County Public Schools included Nancy Aloma, Mui Barron, Wanda Bey, Laura Bradlee, Dwayne Cabaniss, Jon Emanuelson, Nicholas Ernst, Amelia Guigou, Judith Holzgreffe, Karen Hues, Leshia Jackson, Robin Katsarelis, Rebecca Kelley, Channing Knox, Marion Kramer, Nancy Loveless, Linda Marable, Megan Meals, Brooke Mondy, Michael Price, Natalie Randolph, Susan Seal, Cassandra Street, Judith Varnier, Debbie Waldenmaier, and Vernita Williams.

Lelia Youmans attended from Hopewell Public Schools.

The 8 attendees from King William County Public Schools included Ann Chatos, Nancy Coggeshall, Nicole Davis, Michael Embrey, Alan Jordan, Kelly Longest, Jessica Robinson and Kris Ross-Erb.

The 4 attendees from Petersburg Public Schools included Alice Mitchell, Helen Branch Richardson, Donna Rogers, and Cate Sirles

The 3 Attendees from Powhatan County Public Schools included Martha Benson, Anne Blevins and Lauren Trimmer. .

The **4 Attendees from Prince George Public Schools** included Darlene Heiser, Kelley Martin, Tamera Ramsey and Rhonda Wohnig.

The **24 Attendees from Richmond Public Schools** included Johna Bishop, Samara Booker, Caitlin Callister, Kisha Christain, Maria Crenshaw, LaQueen Delaney, Christy Deonanan, Sibyl FaJohn, Sherrard Gardner, Cynthia Gino, Chante Givens, Sylvia Haliburton, Sylvia Hicks, Fay Joyner, Natisha Knight, Jessica Lefort, Stacy Lipari, Chris Miller, Joni Moore, Deborah Morgan, Marci Rosenthal, Nathan Ruff, Lorna Schaefer, and Angela Wilson-Oliver.

Nancy Loyd from **The Steward School** also attended.

The MathScience Innovation Center is a capacity building workforce program for K-12 educators that provides expanded opportunities to learn about emerging fields (fractal geometry, engineering, nanotechnology, environmental modeling) and effective ways to integrate within the curriculum. Established in 1966 we are one of the oldest examples of regional partnerships in the metro Richmond area. The MathScience Innovation Center is comprised of eight school divisions: Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Hanover, Henrico, King William, Petersburg, Powhatan, and Richmond.