



PRESS RELEASE

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NC Lieutenant Governor Visits Meadowview Magnet Middle School

North Carolina Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest recently visiting Meadow Magnet Middle, a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) School of Distinction and NC STEM School of Distinction. Mustang Student Ambassadors, Maci Whittington, and Ashley Flores led Mr. Forest to the zSpace lab where Mr. Jeff Edwards, district Science Institute Coordinator, was facilitating student learning using a virtual reality learning activity in the zSpace lab. The zSpace lab enables students to wear 3D glasses and use a stylus to manipulate difficult to understand concepts and content. "Access to zSpace technology has students so engaged because they are seeing concepts like never before. The zSpace lab has opened up a whole new world of learning for students," commented Mr. Edwards.

Next on the tour, Lieutenant Governor Forest visited a 6th-grade PLTW lab. Students were working with circuits and MaKey MaKey invention kits. MaKey MaKey enables students to take ordinary objects and turn them into something else entirely. The developers state, "We believe that everyone is creative, inventive, and imaginative. We believe that everyone can create the future and change the world."¹ Meadowview Magnet administrators and teachers believe their students are doing just that and Mr. Forest got to see first hand why they think so.

Students in an 8th-grade PLTW lab explained to the Lieutenant Governor they were building wind turbines. Then, Mr. Forest visited the 7th-grade *Book Bistro*. The *Book Bistro* was the culminating event for students' positive impact project-based learning (PBL) product. No visit to Meadowview Magnet Middle would be complete without a visit to the district's Science Institute and the Lieutenant Governor got to see some of the exciting things students across Surry County Schools get to experience.

Superintendent, Dr. Travis L. Reeves, commented, "I am proud Lieutenant Governor Forest wanted to visit Surry County Schools and Meadowview Magnet Middle. I am proud of the hard

work that our teachers and administrators put forth every day in all 19 schools and to be able to showcase that hard work is a highlight for students and staff. Because Meadowview is a magnet school with a focus on STEM, it enables teachers in their professional learning communities (PLCs) to collaborate and to think outside the box, thereby challenging students with opportunities to explore and experience science, technology, engineering, and math on a daily basis in a very deliberate way. We replicate many of these opportunities in the other middle schools and all 19 schools can bring students to the Science Institute. It just happens to be housed at Meadowview Magnet Middle.” Dr. Reeves went on to say, “There are many cutting-edge learning opportunities happening throughout Surry County Schools on a daily basis. We are preparing students with relevant educational hands-on experiences so they will develop skills that will be transferable to the world of work. We have a college-going culture but we are also building a highly-skilled workforce for those students who do not plan to attend a four-year college after graduation. We invite other legislators, business partners, community leaders, and parents to visit our schools and see what the Lieutenant Governor saw, what is right about public education, and why Surry County Schools students are consistently performing in the top 20 school systems out of 115 school systems year after year. It is a focus on high-quality teaching and learning that starts in Pre-kindergarten and extends to 12th-grade and beyond.”

Recently, Surry County Schools held a district-wide Campus Tour Day event in which all 19 schools were open to the public for tours. If you missed the Campus Tour Day but want to learn more about what MaKey MaKey can do to foster your child’s inventive spirit, or more about the zSpace lab and the STEM skills students are learning throughout Surry County Schools, call a school today or schedule a tour by visiting the Surry County Schools website at www.surry.k12.nc.us and clicking *Schedule a Tour* under the *Quick Links* section. Surry County Schools is preparing today’s students to be tomorrow’s leaders and inventors. Schedule your tour today!





