



MathScience Innovation Center

Imagine. Create. Lead.

Contact: Robin Newton
Tel. (804) 343-6525 Ext 227
Email: newton@msinnovation.info

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 17, 2009

Students Celebrate 100th Day of School Virtually

How many ways can you express 100? In late February, over 750 students used three unique tools to explore the concept of one-hundred and to share their findings virtually with classes across the consortium.

Beginning with a fraction wheel, a device for showing a number on a circle made of 100 parts, students compared various fractions and decimals to determine which was larger. Then they observed 100 objects in a bag, classified them into categories and expressed the numbers of items in each category as fractions and decimals. Finally, they engaged in a competition to use clues to identify elements on the periodic table and to complete a Suduko type table in which rows and columns must add to 100.

Taught by MSiC educators, Crystal Clark and Gail Warren, the lesson used the *Elluminate Live* videoconferencing system. With this system, students view the instructors and visuals on a large computer screen in their classroom and interact via microphones, text and writing and drawing tools.

Teachers reported that “students were very engaged” and “excited about participating in such a modern and technological experience.” Numerous participants cited the integration of math and science and the unique activities which integrated the two subjects as strengths. Given the learning curve for each activity and for the new technology, many found the lesson too fast paced and suggested that the lesson be split in future years.

The 39 participating classes included students from the following schools:

Chesterfield: Gordon Elementary, Hopkins Elementary;

Colonial Heights: North Elementary;

Hanover: Battlefield Elementary, Beaverdam Elementary, Cold Harbor Elementary, Gandy Elementary, Mechanicsville Elementary;

Henrico: Echo Lakes Elementary, Holladay Elementary, Johnson Elementary, Lakeside Elementary, Pemberton Elementary, Sandston Elementary

Powhatan: Pocahontas Middle School;

Richmond Public Schools: Bellevue Elementary School, G.H. Reid Elementary School, J.L. Francis Elementary School.

The Math Science 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.