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MEDIA ADVISORY

Thursday, December 3, 2015

It's DeSTEMber in Lancaster ISD

In Lancaster ISD, it is not only December, it is actually DeSTEMber. This month we will celebrate and showcase a couple of major events in our *STEM for All District* – The Hour of Code (District-wide celebration of Computer Science) and the 2015 Flying Classroom Launch event with Captain Barrington Irving. Please see below for Details of each event:

The Hour of Code: Lancaster ISD joins the Hour of Code mission to introduce students to computer science

Lancaster, TX/ Lancaster ISD - Lancaster ISD students, staff, district leaders and community leaders will come together for an hour to write lines of code on Monday, December 7 at 8 am at the G.W. Carver 6th Grade STEM Learning Center to kick off the Computer Science Awareness Week.

There will be events and student coding activities on each campus throughout the day in which students will actually write codes for games, robotic movement and online applications among others to gain a clearer understanding of how coding is connected their daily activities, such as social media, video gaming along with other technology (**Click [HERE](#) to View Schedule**).

Computers are everywhere, but fewer schools teach computer science than 10 years ago. Girls and minorities are severely underrepresented. Good news is, Lancaster ISD is working to educate of its students from Pre-K to 12th grades about the major impact of computer science on our society and in our lives.

With the Hour of Code, computer science has been on homepages of Google, MSN, Yahoo! and Disney. More than 100 partners joined together to support this global movement comprised of students, community members, parents, business owners and celebrity individuals from around the globe. Last year, every Apple Store in the world hosted an Hour of Code event and even President Obama wrote his first line of code as part of the campaign.



That's why every one of the 7300 students in Lancaster ISD are joining in on the largest learning event in history: The Hour of Code on Dec. 7. We have invited Lancaster Mayor, the Honorable Marcus E. Knight, local elected officials and community business partners to stop by and code.

To attend our kickoff assembly, and to see kids start the activity, please contact us at info@lancasterisd.org.

The Hour of Code, organized by the nonprofit Code.org and over 100 others, is a statement that today's generation of students are ready to learn critical skills for 21st century success. Please join us.

2015 Lancaster ISD Flying Tigers Expedition will take off with Captain Barrington Irving

Lancaster, TX/ Lancaster ISD - On Wednesday, December 9, Captain Barrington Irving Jr. returns to Lancaster ISD to launch the Flying Classroom curriculum. About 500 6th graders will welcome the pilot back for a brief keynote address to kick off the ground expeditions.

Lancaster ISD Superintendent Dr. Michael D. McFarland will accompany Captain Irving for an aerial flight via helicopter over the George Washington Carver 6th Grade STEM Learning Center, beginning at 8:30 AM. The duo will land near the LMS Baseball field, where the GWC students and staff will convene to greet them.

Following their landing, Captain Irving will share his story and introduce the students to the investigations in a general assembly in Lancaster Middle School Auditorium. The sixth grade students will have an opportunity to engage in a Q&A dialogue with Captain Irving, as well as obtain autographs and pose for photos with the pilot.

As a T-STEM district, this event will also demonstrate our continued efforts to integrate STEM and literacy as each student will receive a personal copy of Captain Irving's book, *Touch the Sky*, to commemorate his visit.

Scholastic Inc., in partnership with Lancaster ISD and Experience Aviation, will be on site to provide students with a preview of an exciting new Forensics curriculum from the Xbooks program. The Scholastic representative will showcase the ebook and display an introductory video and then guide students on a quick dive into the text.

The event will conclude with a light reception at G.W. Carver to honor Captain Irving and other distinguished guests in attendance. This event will culminate around 11 AM.