

## **Have You Heard?**

Roughly 250 rising 4th through 10<sup>th</sup> grade students from Red Clay and other New Castle County schools are participating in two engaging hands-on STEM programs at Dickinson High School this summer. The programs, under the direction of the Forum to Advance Minorities in Engineering (FAME), Inc. began on June 18<sup>th</sup> and are in session Monday through Thursday until July 26<sup>th</sup>.

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STEMulate Change provides educational experiences for fourth through sixth grade students and exposes them to STEM learning opportunities. This program motivates young students to enroll in higher level classes, prepares them to pursue STEM related fields and builds their confidence and capacity to be successful.

CORE Enrichment, designed for students in seventh through twelfth grades encourages students to explore real world needs and work toward solving modern day problems. While 7<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> graders attend classes at Dickinson, FAME students in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade have the opportunity to participate in a four week professor-led program at the University of Delaware's College of Engineering. FAME students live on campus during the week and return home on weekends. Acceptance to the program is based on a student's GPA, test scores, essay and recommendations.

The programs, developed by FAME Inc. and run by 35 faculty, staff and interns, ignite student interest in STEM activities and focus on girls and underrepresented minorities, encouraging them to see themselves as scientists, mathematicians, engineers and technicians. Former FAME student and new intern Destiny Skinner said "We're a community and very accepting of everyone. FAME provides reinforcement for concepts already learned and makes learning new things easier."

Students learn by collaborating together and working with 3D designs to solve real world problems that are relevant to their lives. This year students will be brainstorming projects centered on irrigation, energy conservation, digital reconstruction, technology and reverse engineering.

Program Director Lokia Belcher explained that students are challenged to look at ideas and remodel them to make them their own. "FAME provides an opportunity for older students to act as role models to mentor younger students and help teach them the art of problem solving. FAME is a village building successful students. We give them the skills and support to be successful," Belcher said.

FAME, Inc., a non-profit education organization providing STEM education since 1976, helps motivate students to succeed in the science and math required for acceptance in colleges of engineering and prepares them to succeed in technical careers. Over 95% of FAME matriculated students have gone on to pursue degrees with 68% specializing in STEM related fields of study. Donald Baker II, Executive Director of FAME, Inc. said, "FAME has 42 years of proven success. Alumni have been successful in education and corporate jobs and that is why parents put their trust and faith in our programs."

Although school's out for many students across the country, the FAME students at Dickinson High School are experiencing a challenging but fun summer session. The STEMulate Change and CORE Enrichment programs are helping today's students become tomorrow's leaders.