



For Immediate Release:

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Montgomery County Public Schools Announce Expansion of Maker Learning Curriculum to Reach Every Elementary and Middle School Student Districtwide

Partnership with KID Museum Fuels New Curriculum, Professional Development and Summer Resources for Schools

Bethesda, MD (November 16, 2021)—Maryland’s [Montgomery County Public Schools](#) (MCPS), one of the largest and most diverse school districts in the nation, is making a commitment to ensure that every elementary and middle school student district-wide has access to a deep maker learning experience. To do this, MCPS is expanding their relationship with KID Museum, the leading educational makerspace for K-8 students in the greater Washington DC region. The announcement was made by Dr. Monifa McKnight, Interim Superintendent for MCPS, and Cara Lesser, Founder and Executive Director of KID Museum.

Maker learning, which builds engagement in STEM, while cultivating creative problem solving, adaptability and perseverance, has been proven to help support critical skill development. In a study by PEAR (Partnerships in Education and Resilience) Institute, based on a survey of 131 diverse middle schoolers who participated in KID Museum’s [Invent the Future Challenge](#), 75% of students reported an increase in attitude toward STEM engagement; over 80% of educators reported an increase in their students’ skills with Engineering, their students’ Confidence with Technology, their students’

perseverance and their students' Critical Thinking; and 71% of GIRLS reported an increase in attitude toward STEM career interest.

The partnership between MCPS and KID Museum, which began over 6 years ago, grew deeper amidst the challenges faced by learning disruptions. Through innovative strategies to bring continued learning experiences to students in the school district, including a 9-month long virtual Invent the Future Challenge experience, they created an even more robust offering for students.

Beginning this fall, three new maker learning programs are being introduced which increases the number of students and educators able to access and experience maker learning, accelerating critical STEM and social emotional skill development. Now, more than 7,500 elementary and middle school students — most from schools with a high concentration of students who receive free and reduced meals— will be able to participate in these new and ongoing learning programs. Additionally, more than 350 MCPS teachers will receive extensive professional development to support student access to maker learning.

The three new maker learning programs, aligned to math and science standards, include:

- **Invention Studio elective class for middle school:** This semester-long course provides a deeper maker learning experience across the school semester. It includes in-school content, field trips to KID Museum, and professional development for STEM professionals with goal of creating core curriculum that engages every middle school student in the district every semester
- **Kid Inventors, for elementary students:** This soon-to-launch program provides second, third and fourth grade school students the opportunity to explore engineering design, electronics, and robotics to create an invention of their own design. The program, designed to build foundational skills earlier, will launch with five schools this year, and serve as a model to be replicated across the district. This builds upon the middle school format to introduce younger learning to making both in school and through field trips to KID Museum.
- **Elementary School Maker Studio:** This program will provide training, support and resources for champion teachers and media specialists to deliver maker learning experiences for students on a regular basis. Embedded in monthly media, library or STEM time at school, educators can introduce their students to maker learning.

“Everyone at MCPS is committed to creating innovative solutions to support the recovery of this severe learning disruption and build a positive future of learning for all,” said Dr. Monifa McKnight, interim Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools. “MCPS turned to our longstanding partner, KID Museum, to help students build foundational skills and regain confidence, creativity, compassion, and critical thinking. We are excited to bring the engaging, dynamic, innovative learning experiences we have created together to students. We look forward to its potential to unlock possibilities for all youth, helping them see themselves on a path to success in school and work, and cultivating a diverse, prepared new generation of problem solvers, innovators, and change makers.”

“Dr. McKnight and Montgomery County Public Schools are dedicated to excellence and innovation. These customized interventions are just one way they are helping reengage and excite their students to learn today and for the future,” said Cara Lesser, Founder and Executive Director of KID Museum. “We are thrilled to partner with MCPS to deliver hands-on, learning experiences rooted in the maker mindset--helping kids develop STEM, social emotional and real-world creative problem-solving skills. Our new hands-on maker learning initiatives will create new opportunities for kids and help us remake learning for the future.”

For more information about KID Museum’s maker learning curriculum and professional development services, visit kid-museum.org and stay connected with KID Museum on social media through LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

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About KID Museum

KID Museum is the region’s pioneering experiential museum and educational makerspace. The organization fosters the “Mind of a Maker” and empowers the next generation of changemakers with the skills to invent the future. Through hands-on programs, KID Museum challenges young people to be active makers, building agency, confidence, and creative problem-solving skills. KID Museum designs and delivers programs across the full continuum of learning for K-8 students in partnership with educators and schools. KID Museum’s weekend onsite programs, community events, and live, virtual sessions encourage families to learn and explore together. The organization is part of a growing movement to remake education for every young person, putting them in the driver’s seat of their learning and trusting them to be agents of change. For more information, please visit www.kid-museum.org.