

- Aviation STEM Program Debuts at D.C.-Area Shabach Academy

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by: Courtney Jacobs / Nov 1, 2013

The Shabach Christian Academy in Landover, Md. debuted the first Aviation STEM program for elementary school students in the Washington Metropolitan area on Oct. 31.

Students, parents, administrators, elected officials and community leaders came out to witness a hands-on demonstration and receive information on the STEM program, an acronym for Sc Engineering and Math.

Attendees also received a tour of the school led by Principal Nicole McNeil, and a chance to talk with students.

During classroom instruction as part of the program, students will have STEM exposure using the NEXT Generation Science Standards and National Science Education Standards, also known in the control of the program of will also use the scientific method to explore the aviation sciences and conduct hands-on investigations.

"I think today's event went very well," McNeil told the AFRO. "The range of presence for the people to come out and look at the program and support our school is significant. What this prog application of content that the average child struggles to understand."

The school created the program in partnership with AviationEd, Inc., an organization of aviation and education professionals committed to inspiring the next generation to pursue their career developing the curriculum and instruction for the program.

"It's a phenomenal program," AviationEd's Director of Program Development Dr. James E. Sulton, III told the AFRO. "It's so great to see so many people from the community come out and thing that is really important, that I think kind of gets overlooked a lot of times in our educational environment, is that kids need something that they can grab a hold to. So what we're trying life with our Aviation education curriculum. The program has really taken of and we've had a lot kids be successful."

The school also joined a collaborative effort between the First Baptist Church of Glenarden, Destiny Aviation Services, and Virtual Flight Academy to design a unique flight lab to complimer partnership created a flight lab with state-of-the-art educational technology, including four PC-based flight simulators.

"I like learning about the airplanes and the black gas that fuels up the energy to make the plane go," six-year-old Caleb West of Mitchellville, Md., a first grade student, told the AFRO.

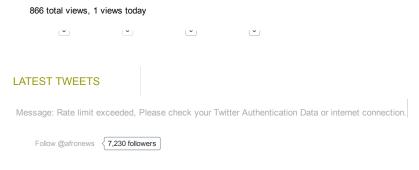
The aviation program was introduced earlier this year to the students

Bryan Love, 11, of Upper Marlboro is a sixth grader at Shabach, and is in his first year at the school. "The program is fun," Love told the AFRO. "I like the simulators a lot. We get to do a lot projects too that I like."

West and his classmates spend five minutes every Wednesday in the flight lab. Love and his classmates spend 10 minutes every Friday in the flight lab.

In addition to the aviation STEM program, the school also offers interactive learning centers boasting innovative technology such as "Time to Know," a digital teaching platform; a critical thin dynamic fine arts program; and a Biblical integration.

I think that this was an historic event," President of Shabach Ministries, Inc. Cynthia J. Terry told the AFRO. "I'm really excited about it. Not just for Shabach, but for our community and for Metropolitan area. I know that there are several other schools that have Aviation programs, but we have actual simulators and the kids get really excited about that. If they can learn Math a excited about it when they get to college, they are still going to be excited about it."



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