

Scientists help Randolph students get into science



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Randolph Public Schools received substantial grant funding this year to create a more hands-on science experience for students and partnered with the Science from Scientists program to make it a reality.

Science from Scientists' mission is to improve the attitudes and aptitudes of children in science, technology, engineering and mathematics by sending charismatic scientists into classrooms to inspire a love of science and help teachers to further develop their hands-on lesson planning.

Science from Scientists has held at least eight programs with students in grades five and six. Students have experienced a journey through space as they learned about the orbit of the moon, the scale of the solar system and the workings of stars. Students used gravity wells to explore how gravity works under different conditions.

Lyons Elementary School Principal Cindy Lopez commented that the experience has been very impressive as the materials and resources brought in allow students to have real life experiences.

Melissa Johnson, a first-year science teacher at Donovan Elementary School, stated that kids have great interest in the program and they love having the opportunity to work with dry ice as they built their understanding around states of matter. Johnson also spoke about what she learned this year while observing the Science from Scientists sessions. During the lab, as she observed conductors and insulators, she was inspired to create a modified lab on the same topic for her grade four students who were also studying similar material in their classroom.

Superintendent Thomas Anderson said he supports this initiative. He said he has continually communicated the importance of ensuring that every classroom is engaging in rigorous teaching and learning as one of Randolph Public Schools' goals.



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