

VISTA MAGNET



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Vista Magnet Middle School

NEWS RELEASE

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Community NEWS

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VMMS Eighth graders reach “high” for their careers

“...You will be amazed and it will blow your mind!” was a comment from a Vista Magnet Middle School eighth grader after attending San Diego’s High Tech Fair on February 9, 2011. Led by their eighth grade teachers:

Donna Markey and Jaime Hagen-Holt, Science

Karl Henderson and Margaret Jacobsen, Language Arts & Humanities

Tiana Tebelman and Julie Last, Algebra/Geo/Trig

All 201 eighth graders from VMMS attended the fair at the Del Mar fairgrounds.

Organized by the San Diego Science Alliance, companies exhibiting included Genentech, Northrup Grumman, Lockheed Martin, and General Atomics. Student prepared for the visit in their science classes by studying companies within seven high tech strands. The strands included Biotech, Conservation and the Environment, Engineering and Aerospace, Robotics, Information and Communication Technology, Clean Energy and Technology, and Health Care Technology. Students explored the purpose of each company and then brainstormed questions they could ask. At the fair, students had the opportunity to operate a flight simulator from Lockheed-Martin. They extracted DNA, saw demonstrations with liquid nitrogen, learned how grass and algae can be converted into fuel, learned how to perform CPR and operated and interacted with robots. Some students rode a bicycle to see how much energy LED, fluorescent and incandescent light bulbs required.

Students commented:

“This fair was an exciting experience to get you started brainstorming careers you would like to pursue.”

“It is very interesting and shows you the real-world application of math, science and technology.”

“It wasn’t boring; it was actually fun to see what peoples’ jobs are.”

“Be open-minded about all of the strands you visit, because they all have good ideas to make a change in our environment today and change our world.”

As a concluding activity, students are writing letters thanking the companies for presenting, and asking clarifying questions. A special thanks to Genetech and Science Alliance for supporting this trip.

For more information: <http://sdsa.org/programs/high-tech-fair>

For more information or to visit the school site, vistamagnet.com, please call José Manuel Villarreal, Ed.D., principal of Vista Magnet Middle School, at (760) 726-5766.

Below are pictures from the event:



8th graders Juan Venegas, Oscar Perez, and Eri Moreno investigate prosthetic limbs in the Healthcare Technology strand



8th grader, Paige Wessels, operates the flight simulator brought by Lockheed Martin



Biotech company, Genetech, teaches Lesley Ibarra and John Flores the correct method of suiting up for a clean room



VMMS student, Dwayne Sandrock, learns how BP converts grass to biofuel



8th graders, Ashley Vielmann, Dwayne Sandrock and Sandra Ramos Hernandez, record observations of aquaponics