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Foxview Intermediate School Teams Up with Microsoft For A STEM Learning Experience!

DE PERE, WI – Foxview Intermediate School announced they are collaborating with Microsoft TechSpark Wisconsin to inspire students to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education careers through a DigiGirlz event being held at the school on Thursday, April 25.

DigiGirlz is aimed at promoting STEM education among students, especially girls, who are vastly outnumbered by males in these career fields. From 3:00 pm to 4:30pm CDT, volunteers from Women in Technology (WIT) Wisconsin, Microsoft, and Foxview staff will facilitate this learning opportunity using Adafruit Circuit Express Playground devices, a small and affordable device with sensors and controls to teach programming. Nearly 60 students are expected to participate and benefit from this experience.

Michelle Schuler, who leads Microsoft TechSpark Wisconsin, has been bringing this workshop to schools across Northeast Wisconsin. Launched in 2017, TechSpark is a Microsoft civic initiative that aims to improve economic opportunities in communities outside of largely populated urban areas. Green Bay is one of six communities selected as a TechSpark region.

"Even as the number of jobs requiring computing skills increases, the number of women graduating with these skills is decreasing," Schuler said. "DigiGirlz events encourage girls to see themselves in these fields by offering an opportunity to learn about technology careers, connect with local role models, and participate in a hands-on technology workshop."

Kelly Pufall and Erin Alworden, two math and science teachers at Foxview and Chris Hendricks Grade 5-12 TAG Teacher, helped recruit the students who will be participating in the DigiGirlz program experience. They are passionate about helping all students, especially girls, see themselves as creators and change-makers in scientific fields. Since Foxview is a school for 5th and 6th grade students, this is the perfect age to inspire students to pursue STEM fields.

For more information, please reach out to Josh Gauthier - jgauthier@depere.k12.wi.us - 715-499-1504

WHAT: DigiGirlz event to inspire students to pursue STEM careers and teach computer coding.

WHEN: 3:00 – 4:30 pm (CDT), Thursday, April 25, 2019

WHO: Approximately 60 5th and 6th grade students plus teachers, parents, and Microsoft employees

   WHERE: Foxview Intermediate School
                 650 S Michigan St
                 De Pere, WI 54115

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