







Intel Schools of Distinction

Congratulations to the 2011 Intel Schools of Distinction winners!

At an awards gala in Washington, D.C., on September 20, 2011, six schools were named as Intel Schools of Distinction for their demonstrated excellence in math and science education and their ability to promote students' problem solving, critical thinking and collaboration skills, areas called 21st century skills by educators. This honor, including the prestigious Star Innovator Award, recognizes schools for exemplary instruction in math and science.

Mathematics Excellence	
<p>2011 Star Innovator: Valley Christian Junior High, San Jose, California</p> <p>Valley Christian Junior High serves a diverse, urban population and employs a variety of methods to teach mathematics, including directed teaching, hands-on activities, collaborative work and discovery exploration. Over the past four years, Valley Christian students have consistently scored in the nation's top 17 percent in mathematics on the Stanford Achievement Test.</p> <p>Of particular interest, Valley Christian uses "inverted learning" where students watch prerecorded webcasts of lessons as homework, reserving class time for practice. The effects include increased student engagement, increased retention and the utilization of multiple forms of personalized learning through individual work, pair share, group work, and one-on-one student-teacher interactions.</p> <p>Learn more about Valley Christian ></p>	
<p>Crellin Elementary: Mathematics, Oakland, MD</p> <p>Seven years ago, students at Crellin Elementary struggled with mathematics performance. Only 44 percent of students in grades three through five reached proficiency levels. In 2004, the school began working with a mathematics mentor from a nearby university. They shifted the instructional focus to a more conceptual, inquiry-based, interdisciplinary approach to help students grasp mathematics concepts through relevant, real-world problems and projects. This included extending learning from the classroom into the community, where students now gather data and conduct experiments in the local environment, comprised by decades of coal mining. Technology is integrated whenever possible through the use of SMART Boards*, laptops, and other portable devices. As a result of these shifts, 100 percent of students reached proficient or advanced levels in 2010 state testing.</p> <p>Learn more about Crellin ></p>	
<p>Byron Senior High: Mathematics, Byron, MN</p> <p>At Byron Senior High School, teachers say a "perfect mathematical storm" occurred when a need for new textbooks, the lack of funds for such textbooks, and a group of creative educators came together. Recognizing the value of a growing body of online instructional tools, as well as the fact that no single textbook could address all of the required mathematics standards</p>	

<p>anyway, teachers decided to build their own textbook-free curriculum. As a result, math scores have risen dramatically, from 29.9 percent of 11th graders meeting proficiency requirements in 2007 to 65.6 percent in 2010.</p> <p>Learn more about Byron Senior High ></p>	
<p>Science Excellence</p>	
<p>Farmington View Elementary: Science, Hillsboro, OR</p> <p>Farmington View serves a diverse group of children from both affluent homes and migrant labor camps. The school has extensive grounds and sits adjacent to a 760-acre wetland preserve and nature center which serves as an education extension of the school. Teachers use an interdisciplinary, hands-on approach to fully engage students by giving them the opportunity to be an actual scientist. Outreach classes taught in the field by experts address such topics as animal tracking, watershed science, ethnobotany, and inferential classification. The number of fifth graders who met or exceeded standards to the Oregon State Assessment has risen from 69 percent in 2004 to more than 94 percent in 2010. Last year, students scored in the top 10 percent of the state in all grades and subjects.</p> <p>Learn more about Farmington ></p>	
<p>Preston Middle School: Science, Fort Collins, CO</p> <p>Teachers at Preston Middle School promote 21st century skills such as critical thinking and problem solving as students engage in the authentic practice of science. Sixth grade students take a research and presentation class to provide real world relevance to science and math concepts. Students pursue questions that lead to authentic inquiry. They engage in web-based inquiry activities to analyze existing data, create graphs, tables and diagrams, and look at the value of representing data in different ways, concluding with a scientific explanation supported by evidence.</p> <p>Teachers engage in conference and workshops on STEM content and pedagogy, pursuing ongoing partnerships with Colorado State University faculty and graduate students from the National Resource Ecology Lab, and training with Carnegie Mellon-Robotics Academy. The result is a plethora of new academic offerings for students, including courses like Biodiversity, Carbon in the Environment, GIS-GPS, Habitat and Telemetry of Bobcats. Of all non-charter schools in the district, Preston had a second greatest number of students scoring at or above proficiency – 65 percent – compared to the district average of 59 percent and the state average of 48 percent.</p> <p>Learn more about Preston ></p>	
<p>Lynbrook High: Science, San Jose, CA</p> <p>At Lynbrook High School, teachers encourage students to delve deeply into science through opportunities within and beyond the classroom. Teachers foster inquiry by demonstrating the “wow” of science through demonstrations and presentations of real-life medical and societal problems. Students are encouraged to develop testable hypothesis related to the science and engineering issues that interest them personally and delve into independent research. Given ample research time and hands-on opportunities to grapple with questions, they explore solutions and provide explanations, honing critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Students are involved in assessing their educational progress, analyzing their work and rethinking</p>	

processes for future growth. Teachers provide multiple laboratory experience for students each week, and extend learning outside the classroom for further study, data collection, and testing. Technology – including SMART Boards*, laptops, digital probes, projectors, and cameras – augment instruction. In California testing, Lynbrook student scores have progressively risen from 77 percent of students meeting or exceeding required proficiency in 2007 to 90 percent in 2010.

*Other names and brands may be claimed as the property of others.

[Learn more about Lynbrook >](#)

Honoring the Intel Schools of Distinction Finalists

Eighteen finalists were selected from 156 applications from 38 states and included:



[Read the press release >](#)

Mathematics excellence	Science Excellence
<u>Elementary School</u> Crellin Elementary Oakland, Maryland Hollin Meadows Elementary Alexandria, Virginia Wauwatosa STEM Wauwatosa, Wisconsin	<u>Elementary School</u> Farmington View Elementary School Hillsboro, Ore. Walton Elementary School Walton, Kan. Zachary Elementary School Zachary, La.
<u>Middle School</u> Conyers Middle School Conyers, Georgia Millikan(Robert A.) Middle School Sherman Oaks, Calif. Valley Christian Junior High School San Jose, Calif.	<u>Middle School</u> New Bridge Middle School Jacksonville, N.C. Preston Middle School Fort Collins, Colo. Sandy Run Middle School Dresher, Pa.
<u>High School</u> Andover High School Andover, Mass.	<u>High School</u> Brooklyn Technical High School Brooklyn, N.Y.

<p>Byron Senior High Byron, Minn.</p> <p>Leadership Public Schools Hayward, Calif.</p>	<p>California Academy of Mathematics Carson, Calif.</p> <p>Lynbrook High School San Jose, Calif.</p>
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2011 Sponsors

Intel would like to thank the following companies for sponsoring the 2011 Intel Schools of Distinction Awards. They have contributed to recognize K-12 schools across the nations who are role modeling excellence in science and mathematics.



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