



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2023.** Please include this submission form with the electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: County of Henrico
Program Title: Short Pump Middle School Student Learning and Innovation Showcase
Program Category: Health and Human Services

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Brandon Hinton
Title: Deputy County Manager for Administration
Signature: 

Program Overview

With the opportunity for a rebranding of a curriculum fair experience for students and families, the team of student-leaders and faculty at Short Pump Middle School in Henrico County, Virginia was committed to reimagining the typical curriculum fair as an entirely new, in-person experience to share how students are learning in their courses and those they might take in the future. Why not capitalize on a community-facing, high-energy, student-centered opportunity for our young people to share their learning experiences and quality work with an authentic audience of future Pumas and their families? The student leaders agreed they would be the best representatives to share their learning experiences.

The goal for the event was to move to a student-led experience for current and incoming students and families, giving each attendee the opportunity to learn from their peers in real time. The event would take students and families through facilitated demonstrations, student-led modeling, hands-on mini-activities and presentations, all about the course opportunities and learning experiences available in each course offered at Short Pump. The entire experience was guided from the perspective of students currently enrolled in each available course participating in clubs and organizations, and participating on athletic teams.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

Following a period of time away from in-person events and community-facing experiences, it has been a focus of the student-leaders and faculty at Short Pump Middle School to increase opportunities for authentic student and family reengagement in the learning happening in our community each day. The goal of the Student Learning and Innovation Showcase was to provide students and families the opportunity to learn more about course offerings at SPMS from the HCPS Academic Planning Guide, live in action. The components of the events were meant to allow families to gain clarity about the course selection process in PowerSchool — our

school division's learning platform — and get questions answered about what Short Pump has to offer — directly from our students. Our community was able to gain a better understanding of what learning looks like directly from the experts, the students.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

This project reimagined a standard yearly event in a fresh, innovative way. Using student voices and leadership and energizing staff and students to showcase meaningful, engaged learning at their school resulted in an enjoyable and informative evening. Parents and their students received outstanding information and were excited about seeing what Short Pump Middle School has to offer. The event also indirectly buttressed daily instruction. Building an annual event that students and teachers will look forward to provides an additional means to encourage students and teachers to continue innovating and updating lessons because they want to be proud of their experiences with an audience. This project can be easily replicated, using existing school resources and harnessing the creativity and enthusiasm of students and staff.

How Program Was Carried Out

The Student Learning and Innovation Showcase was designed to provide a real-time academic and career planning experience for middle school students and their families, student-driven and adult-supported event. The goal of the event was to give students and parents the confidence to make informed decisions about opportunities in middle and high school, with course information and opportunities presented in a clear and organized way that could be tailored to each student's specific needs and interests. This helps ensure the Short Pump Middle School families have the information they need to support our students with course selection and planning for the upcoming school year. The Student Learning and Innovation Showcase used the best parts of a traditional curriculum fair but with so much more included. Our students and teachers shared many of the great things they are teaching and learning at SPMS, and highlighted the courses available for students to choose the following year.

Additionally, the event highlighted representatives from all available student clubs and organizations, athletic teams, PTSA, the yearbook and school counseling, and resources and sessions specifically for parents and guardians. The videos and artifacts linked below in the supplemental materials section provide examples of the innovative and effective way information was presented at the showcase.

Program Cost

Existing school resources were used for the event.

Program Results

The Short Pump Middle School Student Learning and Innovation showcase demonstrated several indicators of success. It achieved 100% teacher participation with all subjects and electives represented. Additionally, the event saw a turnout of more than 200 student presenters and volunteers, making it one of the school's largest events of the year. The showcase also resulted in the generation of new and innovative lessons, as teachers created new material in anticipation of the audience. Furthermore, the exhibition motivated students to work harder and complete their projects to a higher standard. Overall, the showcase was a resounding success, bringing together students and teachers in a collaborative effort to create an exciting and engaging event.

Brief Summary

The Student Learning and Innovation Showcase at Short Pump Middle school was able to take a traditional curriculum fair and turn it into an engaging, student-focused experience. No longer was a class or club just a description; students could now show off exactly why the next class of students should be enticed by whatever subject is on display. This type of interactive presentation was obviously beneficial for prospective students, but it also allowed the current students to display their passion and organizational skills for the betterment of themselves and

the programs they're passionate about. The motivation for each side to either gain knowledge or impart knowledge makes the Student Learning and Innovation Showcase such a hit, and it's the type of fun yet informative event that will only be built on further in the future – whether at Short Pump Middle School or other schools across HCPS.

Short Pump Middle School Student Learning and Innovation Showcase Supplemental Material

- Video No. 1: [SPMS Student Learning and Innovation Showcase](#) (HCPS Division of Communications)
- Video #No. 2: [SPMS Student Learning and Innovation Showcase social media](#)
- [Student Learning and Innovation Showcase event schedule](#) (community-facing)
- [Special Edition Puma Blast, Parent Communication](#) (course selection and event details)
- [Student Learning & Innovation Showcase invitation](#) (community-facing for social media/web communications)
- SPMS 2023-24 course-request information
 - [Rising sixth grade](#)
 - [Rising seventh grade](#)
 - [Rising eighth grade](#)
 - Information on math pathways can be located [here](#).
 - [Rising ninth grade](#)
 - [DRHS Rising ninth grade scheduling video](#)
- [Permission form PDF](#) (for printing hard copies)
- [Permission form fillable](#) (to be completed/shared digitally)