

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, October 23, 2009

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DEF Grant Adds Up at MHS



Pictured Left to Right: Samantha Lowe, Shelby Lanier, Mark Zafra and Avery Stone and twenty-one other Manteo High School (MHS) students learn how to program calculators to solve complex math problems during Empower Hour at MHS. The programmable calculators were purchased by a 21st Century Skills Grant awarded to MHS by the Dare Education Foundation.

What's the big deal? Students are supposed to be learning at school right?

Recently, MHS math department teachers lured 24 students to the classroom during Empower Hour to learn how to program calculators to solve complex math problems. Empower Hour is a

time during the school day held during lunch when students can get extra help in areas where they need it. For many students, Empower Hour is their only free time during the day. This particular week, Homecoming Week at MHS, many festive activities were taking place during Empower Hour, yet twenty four students chose to learn how to program calculators during their free time.

What's the draw and what's the point? Mrs. Pack likened the calculators to cell phones for today's high school students. "They are so used to programming their cell phones to function with a few clicks. Many of them came because they want to learn how to program their calculators to help them complete their work more efficiently."

"The students have to know the complex math formulas and how to apply them to solve problems," Mr. Vrablic added. "Programming the calculators allows them to be more efficient in their work once they have mastered the math. More important, many students are interested in and motivated by the programming aspect. It's taking their knowledge to the next level by letting them apply what they know while using technology."

The calculators, purchased by a 21st Century Skills Grant awarded to MHS by the Dare Education Foundation, are available for enrichment activities like the one featured in this article, and for students to borrow.

For more information about the Dare Education Foundation and the 21st Century Skills Grant Program, visit dareeducationfoundation.org or call 255-5545.

The Dare Education Foundation (DEF) is an IRS-qualified non-profit organization that works in partnership with Dare County Schools to promote excellence in education. DEF believes that the best education possible for every student provides a solid foundation for a strong and vibrant quality of life in Dare County. In order to achieve this, DEF partners with the community and raises funds from private donations large and small, grants, sponsorships, and special events. DEF's collaborative efforts enrich education for all students and encourage community involvement in education.