

Course Offerings:

High School Credit

- ◆ Algebra I
- ◆ Geometry
- ◆ Spanish I
- ◆ Digital Literacy/Multimedia Basics



Science and Technology

- ◆ Forensic Science
- ◆ Pre-Engineering
- ◆ Marine Science
- ◆ Medical Detectives
- ◆ STEM & Entrepreneurship

Fine Arts

- ◆ Drama
- ◆ Chorus
- ◆ Band
- ◆ Strings



HIGHLIGHTS 2016-2017

- ◆ Rated Number One STEM middle schools in the nation by the Future of Education & Technology Conference
- ◆ Celebrated the 150th anniversary of Laing
- ◆ A one-to-one technology school (iPad per student)
- ◆ 63 Junior Scholars
- ◆ 148 students qualified for Duke TIP
- ◆ SeaPerch competition winners
- ◆ Odyssey of the Mind competition winners
- ◆ Superior rated Orchestra Program
- ◆ Superior rated Band Program
- ◆ Superior rated Choral program
- ◆ Presentations to two national audiences
 - ◆ Future of Education & Technology, Orlando, FL
 - ◆ Integrated STEM Education Conference, Princeton, N.J.



Comprehensive Guidance Program:

- ◆ Classroom Guidance /Small groups
- ◆ Career Guidance
- ◆ Advisory Program
- ◆ Overcoming Obstacles curriculum
- ◆ Digital Citizenship

LAING PRIDE

Personal Responsibility
Respect
Initiative
Diligence
Effective Behaviors

LAING MIDDLE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



2016-2017
ANNUAL

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL'S REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

The Mission of Laing Middle School of Science & Technology is to prepare and inspire generations of learners to meet the challenges of our 21st century society by fostering academic achievement through technological literacy, innovation, collaboration and creative problem solving.

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## School Improvement Council 2016-2017

Meeting the needs of a rapidly growing area and diverse student body has been a welcome challenge for the Laing SIC. The SIC is dedicated to being a strong advocate for public education and to offering strong support for our Whole School STEM Initiative – ensuring that Laing not only prepares students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce, but also prepares them to be community citizens.

**Google Visit-** On Monday, March 6, 2017, sixth grade students at Laing Middle School of Science and Technology had the opportunity to participate in a series of coding workshops with Google professionals from Charleston, New York, and D.C. as a part of Google's Computer Science (CS) First coding program roadshow. Google CS First is an entry-level computer science program created by Google. CS First and the programming tool it uses, Scratch, are free resources that can be accessed on any computer with an internet connection. During today's workshop, students engaged in Google's High Seas Activity where students created an adventure story, complete with sound and animation, with two characters that takes place on the high seas through the use of Google's programming language, Scratch. Googlers assisted students as they used Chromebooks to log-in and start coding. US Congressman Mark Sanford, SC Senator Larry Grooms, and SC Representative Mike Sottile stopped by to take part in the action and learn more about coding alongside the students at Laing. Members of South Carolina's Education Oversight Committee were also on hand to witness the phenomenal STEM activities that are taking place at the top science, technology, engineering, and math school in the nation!



## Laing Middle School's Whole-School STEM Initiative

Laing is transforming the way children learn by helping them become “STEM Thinkers” who know how to use tools of science, technology, engineering and math to solve a variety of real-world problems in all academic subjects.

Hands-on experiences with technological tools and engineering appear in every class; soldering irons, solar panels, and digital fabrications are just as likely to be seen in English or Social Studies classes as in Science labs.

Laing students learn to be problem-solving, out-of-the-box thinkers who have skills that employers seek for the 21st century workforce. Using real tools to solve real problems is interesting and fun. As a result, students are highly engaged in their classes; and that translates to improved academic performance. In addition to mastering the academic curriculum, Laing students are also expected to become technologically literate, which means they understand the roles of technology in human societies, and have basic abilities to use ten different kinds of technology.

Besides preparing our students to be successful 21 century citizens, Laing's Whole-School STEM program can significantly impact our nation's supply of scientist and engineers who are the key to global competitiveness.



## Core Beliefs

**The Laing faculty is committed to...**

- ◆ Facilitating student learning by encouraging innovation through independent and collaborative problem solving
- ◆ Implementing collaborative ideas that promote openness to ask questions and take risks while seeking solutions
- ◆ Developing professionally by setting goals and seeking growth opportunities
- ◆ Creating assessments that address a variety of modalities so all students may achieve success

**Students are successful when...**



- ◆ Content is relevant, engaging, and revolves around real world problem solving
- ◆ Given the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge utilizing a variety of modalities
- ◆ Multiple learning styles and creativity are recognized and appreciated by the teacher
- ◆ There is meaningful collaboration amongst teachers
- ◆ They work effectively, respectfully, and collaboratively
- ◆ They take ownership of their learning

**CCSD**  
**“Where Excellence is Our Standard”**

**Core Values:**  
**Results, Access, Partnerships, &**  
**Diversity**