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CONTACT: Kerensa Konesni
860-240-8820

East Hartford Middle School Recognized for JASON Learning Initiatives



EH Delegation presents official General Assembly citation to educators

East Hartford, CT – The East Hartford Delegation Friday presented East Hartford Middle School with an official General Assembly citation, in recognition of the district’s participation in JASON Learning’s STEM Curriculum in sixth and seventh grade science classes.

Senator Tim Larson (D-East Hartford), joined by **Representative Jeff Currey**, **Representative Jason Rojas** and **Representative Henry Genga**, commended the students and staff at East Hartford Middle School for their continued excellence in the study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

“The hands-on STEM program that our children are being exposed to at East Hartford Middle School is invaluable and one of the best investments the state has made in our schools,” **said Sen. Larson**. “I am proud that we have been able to bring this cutting-edge curriculum into the classrooms of our public schools. The children who are participating in the JASON Learning program right now will someday be the engineers that drive innovation in our state, and I commend the staff here at East Hartford Middle School for their continued success.”

“It was great to get a first-hand look at how well the JASON Learning program is working. JASON demonstrates how students can be motivated to succeed in STEM studies. Achievement in STEM provides them with the chance to find a fulfilling career that pays well. And area employers like Pratt & Whitney have access to well-trained, qualified employees,” **said Rep. Rojas (D-East Hartford)**.

“I am very pleased our students have had the opportunity to participate in the JASON Learning STEM curriculum,” **said Rep. Currey (D-East Hartford)**. “It is extremely important for students to develop their critical thinking skills, analytical skills, and science literacy skills, all of which are necessary to enable the next generation of innovators. It is my hope that more students have the opportunity to participate in this enrichment program in the coming years.”

East Hartford Middle School has integrated JASON Learning STEM curriculum into its classroom instruction over the last several years. JASON Learning resources and training have been made available at no cost to the district through a grant provided by the State of Connecticut.

During a speaking program in the middle school’s auditorium Friday, Superintendent Nate Quesnal, Principal Anthony Menard, teacher Jillian McKenzie and JASON Learning Regional Director of Educational Partnerships Amy O’Neal spoke of the extensive and successful collaboration between the local school district and JASON Learning.

JASON Learning, a non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire and educate students everywhere through real science and exploration, makes STEM relevant in young people’s lives and motivates them to consider STEM careers.

“Our work with JASON Learning over the past six years has enhanced our ability to provide real world, engaging science in several areas of our middle school science curricula. We hope access to this resource can continue and hope to expand JASON into the high schools and further integrate JASON’s Immersion Learning programs into our elementary levels,” said Melissa Gavarrino, Secondary Supervisor of Science in the East Hartford Public Schools.