Kennedy Middle School STEM Partial Magnet

2015-2016

Purpose - Why are we here

The goal of tonight's presentation is to:

- Learn about daily life at Kennedy Middle School and school specific offerings

- Define middle grades STEM

- Discuss how the STEM magnet program will be infused into the school curriculum
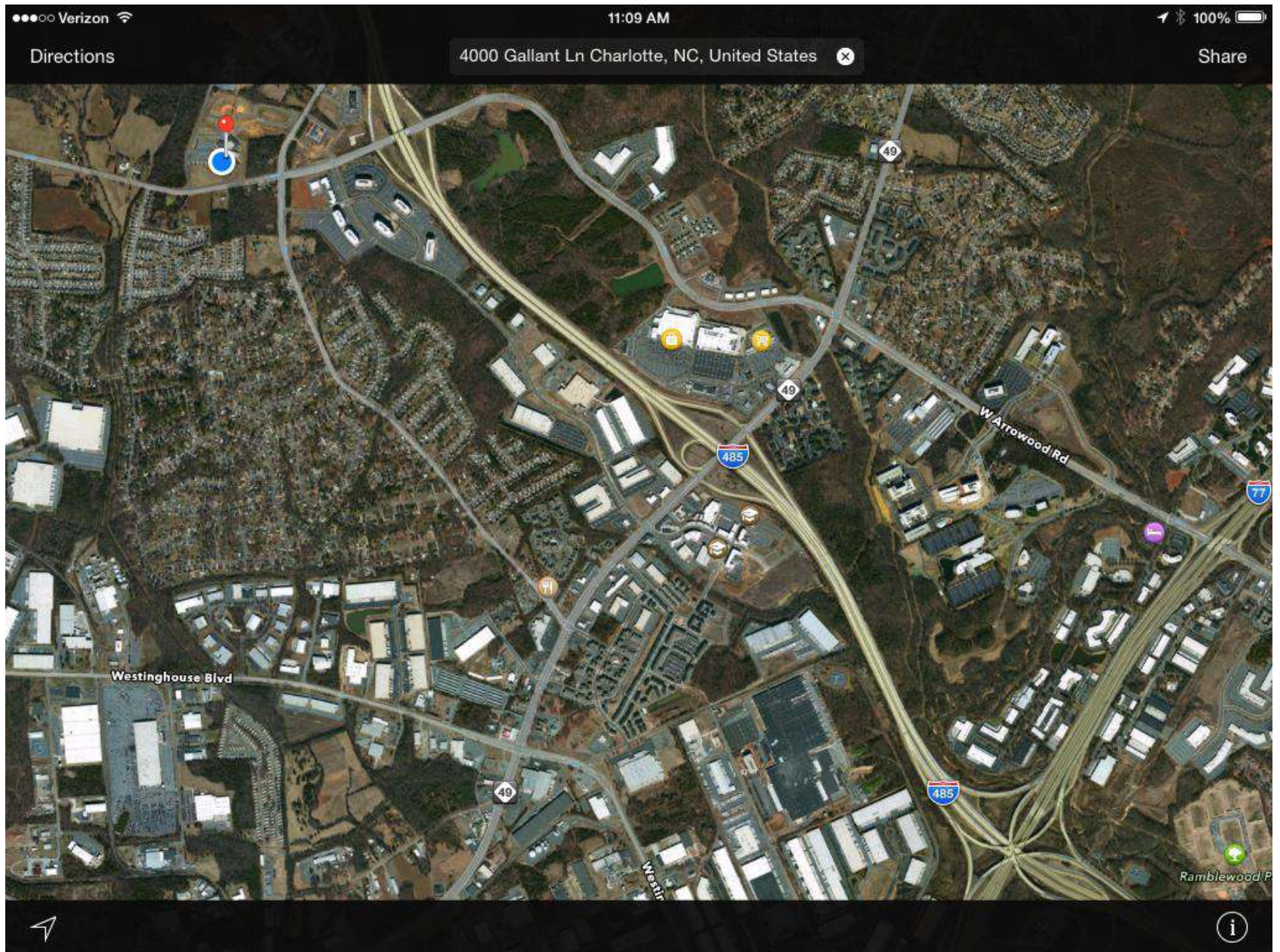
- Questions

MYTHS

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Reality

Quick Facts

- Grades 6-8

- 8:45-3:45 school (Students can enter at 8:15)

- Current enrollment: 720 students

- Expected 2015-2016 enrollment: 800 students

- Diverse school setting: 30% Hispanic, 40% AA, 20% White and 10% other

- 1:1 early adopter school - Chromebooks

- Personalized Learning focus

- Elective Offerings: Automation and Robotics, Design and Modeling, Computer Science, Band, Orchestra, Art, Chorus, Fitness, PE, Spanish

- 45 Teachers and 20 additional staff

- Uniform School – Khaki or Navy bottoms – White or Navy polo shirts

Location

Educational Pillars/Beliefs of Kennedy

- Create a safe and orderly learning environment

- Place an emphasis on developing the whole child

- Focus on instructional best practices and create a learning environment that includes a STEM curriculum and Personalized Learning within a 1:1 setting

Safe and Orderly Environment

- Student opportunities to misbehave are limited
- Bullying is taken seriously with interventions and disciplines applied
- No lockers
- Restroom escorts
- Dean of Students and AP for all discipline
- Culture/Climate focus on order

Developing the whole child

- Learning experiences through PL time (Video Game Design, Coding - HTML, Fence Art, Book club, Debate, Poetry Slam, Fantasy Football)
- Spelling bee, Student Council, Yearbook, News with green screen
- Pep band, jazz band, dance club
- Google Chrome Squad
- TSA - Technology Student Association and robotics

Schedule

- Core classes (Math, LA, Science, and SS) meet for 60 minutes everyday
- Elective classes meet for 60 minutes every other day (A day / B day) - semester and year long electives
- PL Time - 90 minutes a day
  - Flexible grouping
  - Interest grouping
  - Learning experiences
  - Enrichment / Remediation

Instruction - Personalized Learning

- Instruction is based on student's ability level
- Teaching the same thing at the same time to an entire class 100% of the time is not best practice
- Learning Pathways - Instructional models designed for different level learners
- 1:1 - Full implementation of Chromebooks
- Instructional platform - Google Classroom

What is STEM?

- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- Life sciences, physical sciences, mathematics, statistics, computing, engineering and technology
- STEM in the middle school setting
    - Expose students to a variety of STEM activities, high schools, businesses and careers
    - Provide students with background knowledge in various themes and operating systems (Coding, Green Screen, IOS, Win systems, Chrome)

Specifics of the STEM program at Kennedy

- 75 seats for rising 6th graders in 2015-2016
- Magnet Lottery selection process
- Must have scored a level III or higher on the 2013-2014 Math EOG
- Inclusion into established STEM options at Kennedy
  - Chrome Squad, Green Screen, 1:1, PL, TSA, Coding Experience, Video Game Design
- Access to STEM field trips
- Priority to STEM elective offerings
  - Design, modeling, automation, robotics, computer science and additional '15-'16 courses

Questions