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GCPS Foundation receives \$21K donation for Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology instructional tool

Students enrolled in the engineering program at **Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology** (GSMST) soon will have a new instructional tool thanks to a generous gift from Nordson Corporation Foundation. The long-time supporter of the system's start-up charter school has presented the **Gwinnett County Public Schools Foundation Fund, Inc.**, with a donation for \$21,000.



This gift will allow GSMST to purchase a new instructional tool--- a programmable personal fabricator. A personal fabricator is a computer-controlled tool that produces three-dimensional products by adding, removing, and assembling atoms, and can produce anything -- including itself. Equipment of this caliber is typically found in a FAB LAB (Fabricator Laboratory) on the campus of elite engineering universities. In the words of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Professor Neil Gershenfeld, "Imagine a machine capable of making a machine, or a printer capable of producing a printer." The concept, once considered a Star Trek fantasy, will now be possible at GSMST.

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According to **Dr. Jeff Mathews**, principal of GSMST, this type of equipment makes the curriculum relevant to students. He explains, “Our students’ curiosity and imagination is continually nurtured as they watch their concepts, such as the design of a variable axis drive wheel, actualize. Students learn to collaborate with their team, making modifications along the way. Now, thanks to Nordson, they are able to see a relevant result of their efforts.” Dr. Mathews is appreciative of the Nordson Corporation Foundation’s continued support and commitment to enriching the learning environment of GSMST students. He shares, “Our school’s relationship with Nordson and our other partners produce a firm foundation of networking that our students will benefit from as they advance toward future jobs that do not yet exist.”

The Nordson Corporation Foundation commits five percent of pretax domestic earnings for charitable purposes. In the fall of 2009, the Nordson Corporation Foundation presented the GCPS Foundation Fund with a grant for \$21, 200 which funded a video teleconferencing system at GSMST. Using this system, GSMST students are able to communicate and learn from and next to students from countries such as India and Mexico.

GSMST, a Gwinnett County Public Schools charter school, is home to 700 students from across the district and is located in a 200,000 square foot state-of-the-art research facility in Lawrenceville. The school features five engineering labs, 14 science labs, two lecture halls, and an emerging technology department similar to entrepreneurial incubator programs found at universities such as the Georgia Institute of Technology and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Gwinnett County Public Schools Foundation Fund, Inc. is a nonprofit 501C3 charitable organization dedicated to enhancing and expanding the academic initiatives of Gwinnett students.

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To become a partner of Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology or learn more about the programs of the Gwinnett County Public Schools Foundation Fund, Inc., contact Kelly Herndon, the Foundation’s executive director, at 678-301-6077, or visit www.gcps-foundation.org