

# Ambassadors Newsletter

January 2025

## Welcome Back, Ambassadors!

Welcome to the Spring 2025 semester! We hope you had a restful break and are ready for an exciting season of STEM outreach and engagement. This semester brings incredible opportunities to inspire young minds, support students in STEM, and make a difference in our community. Check out the upcoming events where you can get involved!



### 3D Printing with the Girl Scout Troop

Help introduce a local Girl Scout troop to 3D printing! This event, hosted on the Germantown Campus, is a fantastic opportunity to share STEM knowledge and engage with the community.

### Elementary School Math Tutoring

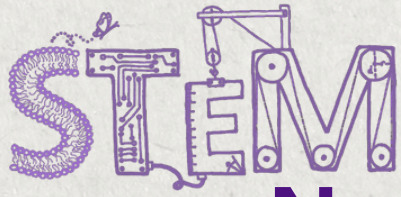
Support young students struggling with math! Volunteers will need to quickly learn the concepts being taught in the classroom a few days in advance to ensure consistency in teaching methods. Your help can make a big difference in their learning journey!

## SK Day (Sonya Kovalevskaya Day)

What is SK Day?

For over 20 years, Sonia Kovalevsky Days (SK Days) have been organized by the Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) and hosted at colleges and universities across the country. These events aim to encourage young women to pursue mathematics by offering workshops, talks, and problem-solving competitions. SK Days also support students during key educational transitions and foster collaboration between colleges and K-12 schools.

This year, Montgomery College STEM ambassadors continues this tradition by hosting SK Day with hands-on STEM activities in data science, math, and chemistry. Join us in inspiring the next generation of mathematicians!



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## Maryland Science Olympiad (MSO) Regionals

The Maryland Science Olympiad is a nationwide competition. Students compete in 23 events, including earth science, biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering. Science Olympiad is designed to increase a student's interest in STEM fields and provide recognition for outstanding achievement in team events. The top teams advance from Regional to State to National levels. Volunteers will assist with event check-in, receive an event T-shirt, get instructions, and help in assigned event rooms.

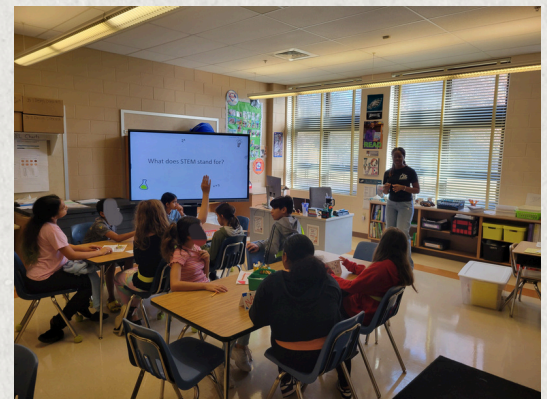


## MCPS Mathical: Expanding Our Reach!



The MCPS Mathical Program kicked off last November at Cannon Road Elementary School, bringing hands-on STEM learning to young students. Through math games, space science lessons, and paper-straw rocket building, STEM Ambassadors helped students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills in a fun, engaging way. But we're not stopping there! We are actively communicating with more schools to expand the program and reach even more students. Currently, we are working with: Fairland, Glenallan, Herbert Hoover, Summit Hall, Travillah, Viers Mill, Cannon Road, and Strathmore Elementary Schools.

If you know of a school that would benefit from the Mathical program, let us know! Together, we can inspire the next generation of STEM leaders.



## Get Involved & Stay Connected!

We look forward to seeing you at these events and making this semester a great one. If you're interested in volunteering or learning more about any event, reach out to the STEM Ambassadors team. Let's make Spring 2025 a semester to remember!

 Here's to a fantastic semester of STEM engagement!

## Scientist Spotlight: Dr. Katherine Johnson

This month, we highlight Dr. Katherine Johnson, a pioneering mathematician whose calculations were critical to NASA's early space missions. Johnson's expertise in orbital mechanics helped launch John Glenn into orbit in 1962, making her an essential figure in the success of the U.S. space program.

As an African American woman in STEM, she overcame significant barriers and paved the way for future generations. Her contributions to space exploration were recognized with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015. Dr. Johnson's legacy continues to inspire those pursuing careers in mathematics and aerospace science.

