

PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release  
Far Hill Country Day School  
January 12, 2018

Contact: Stacy Ducharme  
T. 908-766-0622 ext. 1427  
Email: [sducharme@fhcds.org](mailto:sducharme@fhcds.org)

## **Google Expeditions Augmented Reality Brings Volcanoes and Hurricanes to Far Hills —Far Hills Participates in Pioneer Program to Test Unreleased AR Experience—**

Far Hills, NJ—The local forecast on Friday called for steady rain but inside the walls of Far Hills (FH), a hurricane was brewing. And a volcano. And a tornado and other forces of nature thanks to the Google Expeditions Augmented Reality Program.

Expeditions AR enables teachers to bring 3D objects, like an erupting volcano, into the classroom so that students can view it from all angles. The Forces of Nature Expedition is one tour in an extensive library that also includes lessons in Ancient Rome, the circulatory system, dinosaurs, the solar system and more. Students can get up close and personal or step back to view the bigger picture and get a sense of scale. Teachers can highlight areas within a tour that support their lesson plans. This state of the art technology takes students on a virtual field trip to places that would otherwise be impossible to view in real life. On Friday, FH teachers took their students on tours of the muscular system, World War II, Forces of Nature, Fish, and the circulatory system, to name a few.

FH Director of Technology Cathy Varga said, “Imagine a new world of experiential learning possibilities in which students can interact with a spinning tornado, dive into an active volcano, fly among the asteroids, witness a beating heart, or inspect a DNA strand - that world is here, at Far Hills, today! Technology isn’t the thing, it’s the thing that gets us to the thing (learning). With this visit from Google and by allowing our students to become Augmented Reality Pioneers, the opportunities for engagement, understanding, creativity and curiosity have no limits.”

Google Expeditions AR is a prototype app that can be used on smartphones and tablets. A computer-generated image is superimposed on a user’s view of the real world (similar to a Snapchat filter, or Pokemon Go); thus, allowing users to “place” 3D digital objects in their current space. As Pioneers, FH faculty and students will evaluate the product and the learning outcomes, becoming part of the software development lifecycle by being Beta testers who provide feedback to Google Expeditions for their consideration before releasing the product to the public. This new product will work in tandem with Google VR Expeditions program of Virtual Reality - which just arrived on FH campus this winter!

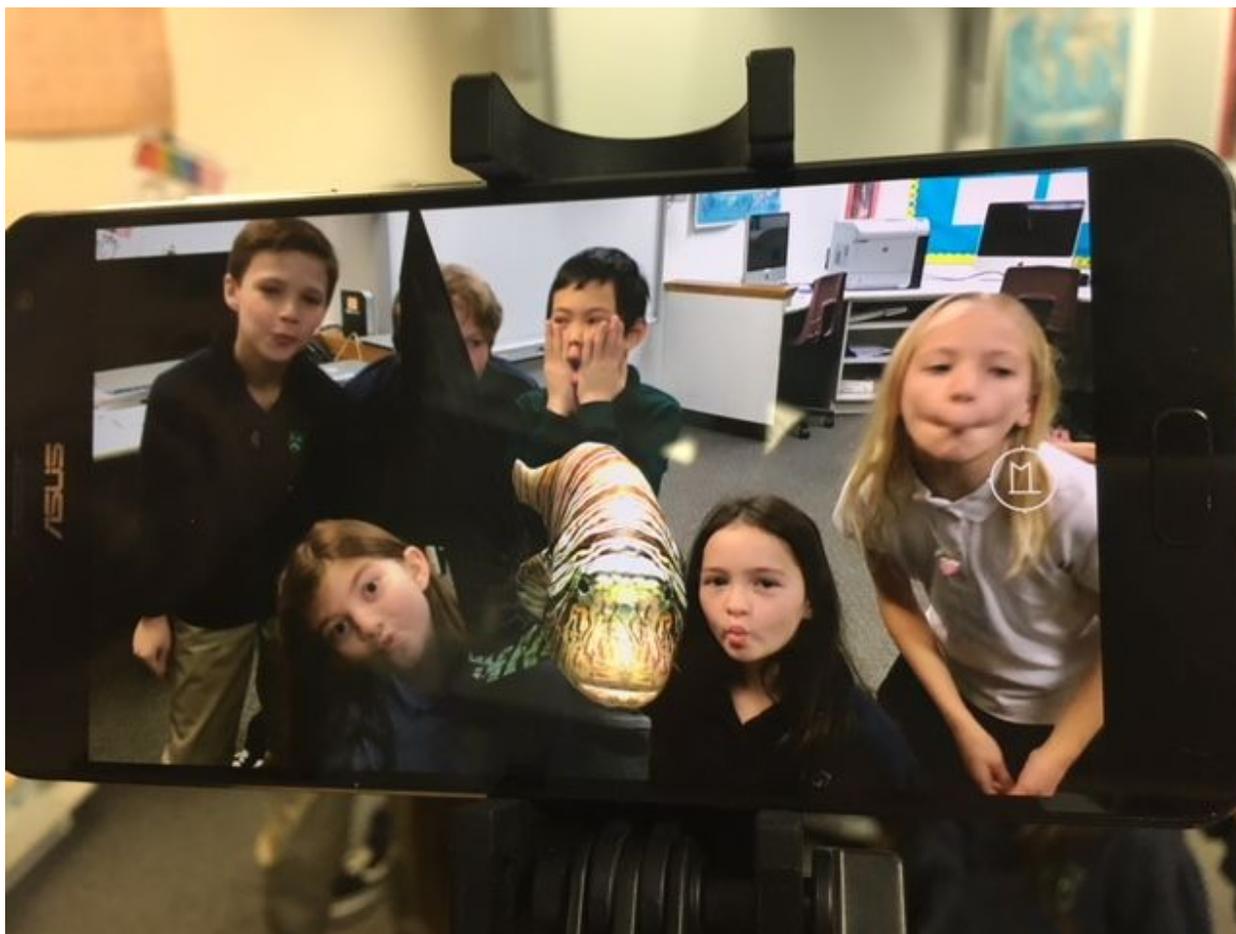
For more information about Far Hills, visit [fhcds.org](http://fhcds.org) or contact Stacy Ducharme, Acting Director of Strategic Marketing & Communications at [sducharme@fhcds.org](mailto:sducharme@fhcds.org) or (908) 766-0622 ext. 1427.

-

Far Hills inspires academic excellence and life skills such as resourcefulness, resilience, integrity, self-control, and a myriad of other invaluable traits that lay the foundation for lifelong success.

Our students don't just learn answers. They develop the courage to challenge those answers. They learn not only problem solving, but also gain the confidence to stand by their solutions. They don't simply learn to play a musical composition, they develop the self-esteem to stand up and perform. This is the balance that defines Far Hills—and sets our students apart.

###



Far Hills Grade 4 students interact with a 3-D fish as pioneers testing the Google Expeditions AR program.