

PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release
Far Hills Country Day School
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Contact: Megan Collyer
Director of Strategic Marketing and Communications
T. 908.766.0622 x1427
mcollyer@fhcds.org

Andrea Sherman
Director of PR & Communications
Level Up Village
andrea@levelupvillage.com

Far Hills Country Day School Partners with Pioneering STEAM Provider, Level Up Village, to Create a Global Classroom Focused on Worldwide Connection and Design Thinking

FAR HILLS, NJ—Far Hills Country Day School (Far Hills) announced today that the school has launched innovative global STEAM programming to its after school program in partnership with Level Up Village (LUV). Far Hills will offer the “Global Inventors” course starting in January 2017. Throughout the course, students will collaborate one-on-one with partner students from Pioneers Baccalaureate School in Palestine via video message exchange.

Director of Technology, Cathy Varga, said, “Our students live in a new era of learning, one in which technology can open a pathway to collaboration, cooperation and understanding of ourselves and our neighbors around the world. By collaborating with a partner in another country on a 3D design challenge, Far Hills students can truly use the Design Thinking skills they have been developing in our design studio and coding/robotics classes to find ways to solve real world problems. They will do this while experiencing the culture and interests of a new friend across the globe. In reaching out to work on a common goal, they learn so much more than how to design a 3D Solar powered flashlight. They learn that there are many more similarities between themselves and global partner students than there are barriers.”

During the Global Inventors course, students learn to harness the power of 3D printing, one of the most innovative technologies of our time, to engineer solutions to real-world issues. They learn how to use Computer Aided Design (CAD) software to create and modify a series of designs. The final project is to create and 3D print a solar-powered light source in collaboration with a global partner student from a developing country.

“Level Up is very fun! I get to make a new friend from across the world! My partner is Omar. He seems nice. Omar lives in Palestine. It is in the Middle East. I like making videos for Omar, but I cannot wait to 3D print!” said, Fourth-grade student Samantha Wagar of the project.

Level Up Village empowers children to make a difference in the world with courses that promote design thinking and one-to-one collaboration on real-world problems between K–9 students in the U.S. and Global Partner students in 20+ countries. United States-based school partners directly sponsor Global STEAM education in developing countries through LUV’s “take a class, give a class” model: a portion of the tuition is used to deliver the same class to students at one of LUV’s Global Partners, many of whom are living on less than \$2 a day.