



“Science for Tomorrow” STEM Program Invites Exciting Opportunities for UPA Middle School

Innovation is a necessity for the development of our scholars early in their academic journey. We implement the values of creativity, problem solving, and innovation to further expand their minds and overall academic experience. One of these experiences for development is the University of Michigan’s *Science for Tomorrow* program. It is led by Angela Sterling, and one of the unique opportunities offered at UPA Middle School.

“*Science for Tomorrow* is a STEM career outreach program for middle school students in communities that are underrepresented in the STEM field,” explained Ms. Sterling. She is a math teacher at UPA MS and the primary liaison between the program director and UPA MS. This program includes 40 scholars, and includes two school visits as well as two Saturday U of M - Ann Arbor campus visits as part of the program schedule.

Each school visit highlights specific STEM careers, introduces the students to the scientific methods and the engineering design process, and works on small group projects. U of M Mentor Students engage with students in a classroom setting to foster a shared respect and understanding of each other's lives. Throughout the program scholars are encouraged to think about the steps they need to take now, and in high school, to prepare for college.

These visits also give our scholars a chance to experience college life. “The overnight campus visit in the spring is a real highlight of the program,” said Sterling. “8th graders, most having been in the program two-three years, get to spend an overnight working and learning with students from other schools in Michigan. While on campus, the students will visit labs and talk with U of M researchers and instructors about career options and skills needed to perform while in college. Students will sleep in resident halls, eat in the commons and tread miles around campus to get the real *college life* experience.

The Science for Tomorrow program is an incredibly unique program that gives our scholars the opportunity to develop their STEM skills as well as a clear view of what college life really is. We are forever grateful to the University of Michigan, and look forward to their continued partnership.