

Discovery

Program Overview

Discovery's vision is to provide a quality summer experience for diverse youth to learn on an urban campus, challenging and supporting them to *Dream, Explore and Investigate*.

In 2013, Discovery was re-launched at the Mary and Frances Youth Center (MFYC). The mission of MFYC is to be a regional leader in university-community collaboration for positive youth development, making Discovery a strong fit. This program provides rising 6th – 9th graders an opportunity to explore future career opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, Math and Health Sciences (STEAM-H) through half-day and full-day, week long courses taught by VCU faculty, students and community members on the college campus.

Program Model

Youth Across the Richmond Region



VCU Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Students



Local teachers and other community members



Discovery:
STEAM-H
Career
Exploration

Engaged and career conscious youth exploring STEAM-H careers through community – university partnership.

Description	2018
# of Weeks	3
# of Unique Classes	17
Number of Students	Served an average of 50 students per week 116 unique students attended
Gender	54% Male, 46% Female
2018-2019 Grade Level	6 th (38%), 7 th (34%), 8 th (24%), 9 th (4%)
Student Ethnicities	Caucasian (41%), African American (33%), Asian (12%), Other/Unknown (11%), Latino (3%)
Returning Students	58%
# of Scholarships	24 scholarships awarded

Progress and Outcomes

Taken from 2018 Evaluation Report

Reflecting Our Values

Fun: Most students (95.7%) strongly agree or agree that the Discovery Summer program was a positive experience.

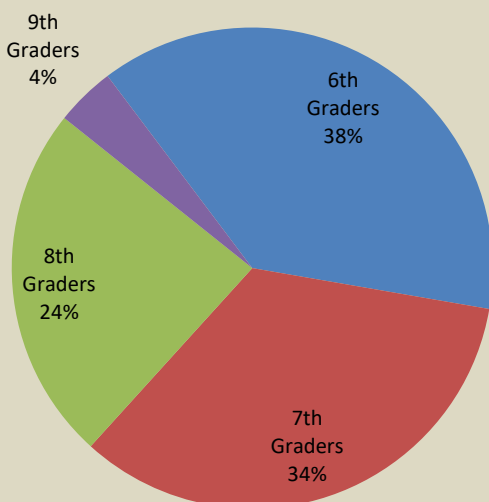
STEAM-H Career exploration: Discovery Students demonstrated knowledge and interest in STEAM-H coursework after completing the program.

Diversity: Most students in the Discovery Summer program reported having classes with other children who looked like them, but most strongly agreed or agreed that they became friends with someone who was different from them.

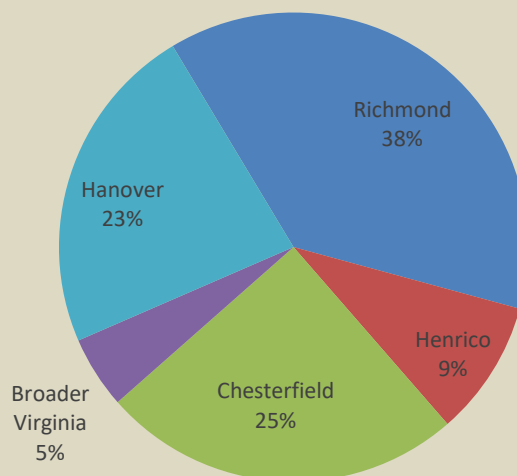
Impacting Summer Learning Loss

- ✓ 72% of Discovery students agreed to using information gained during the school year during their time in Discovery.
- ✓ 84% of Discovery students agreed that they would be able to use ideas from Discovery in the upcoming school year.
- ✓ 92% of students agreed that they were exiting the Discovery program with an idea of how people use the skills they practiced in their career.

Fall 2018 Grade Distribution



Fall 2018 School Districts



Interested in teaching a one-week class? Do you know of middle school youth who would benefit from this program? Visit our website at mfyc.vcu.edu, or contact Alyssa King at arking@vcu.edu or (804)827-3402.



Community Engagement | Mary and Frances Youth Center

