**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**

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

- 9th Graders: 4%
- 8th Graders: 24%
- 7th Graders: 34%
- 6th Graders: 38%

### Fall 2018 School Districts

- Richmond: 38%
- Hanover: 23%
- Chesterfield: 25%
- Henrico: 9%
- Broader Virginia: 5%

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.