Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of rising 6th Grade students,

Middle school is a period of exploration, a time when students are figuring out what they are passionate about today and how that relates to who they want to be tomorrow. As part of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Donna Hanlin’s vision for signature programs in our school system, we are excited to introduce the first signature program for middle school students in Wicomico County, NeXgen STEM.

NeXgen STEM is an academic program featuring Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Gateway (https://www.pltw.org/our-programs/pltw-gateway). NeXgen STEM will be located at Salisbury Middle School and will welcome its first class of 50 students for the 2018-2019 school year.

Eligible rising 6th Grade students from throughout Wicomico County Public Schools will have the opportunity to seek admission to this first-of-its-kind program for middle school students. Families of current 5th Grade students who meet the academic criteria for this Academy will receive additional information in the upcoming weeks, along with an invitation to attend a NeXgen STEM open house.

This program is geared toward students who are team-oriented problem-solvers possessing a high level of interest in science and technology. NeXgen STEM students should be creative thinkers who are willing to take risks and learn from failures. The goal is to develop well-rounded students who are intrinsically motivated to assess and solve community and global problems through innovation, collaboration, and reflection.

We anticipate accepting a class of 50 students for the 6th Grade this first year, then 50 more students in 6th Grade each of the following two years. By the 2020-2021 school year, NeXgen STEM will have 150 students in the three middle school grade levels participating in the program.

We’re excited about the new NeXgen STEM program for middle school students, and we look forward to sharing more details soon!