Coding with Dash & Dot

Special Offer for 3ʳᵈ - 5th Grade Girls

Background: The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that by 2020 there will be more than 1.4 million computing-related job openings, one of the nation's fastest growing sectors. National statistics indicate that women represent less than 28% of this workforce and the number is declining rapidly. In Fond du Lac, manufacturing business leaders estimate that the participation of women is likely less than 5% and they are concerned about the result this will have on the products they create.

Case for Program Support: Career paths are influenced by life experiences. Information gathered from leaders of local middle school and high school robotics programs indicate that by this age, the gender gap is already apparent, with 90-100% of participants being males. Exposure to more positive, engaging and fun computer related programs needs to target girls at an early age. After surveying area Principals, CMFDL found that:

- Only 1 of 11 schools offered a coding or robotics program for 3ʳᵈ – 5ᵗʰ graders.
- All but 1 of the 11 schools were interested in a coding or robotics program for 3ʳᵈ – 5ᵗʰ graders.

Thus, **Coding with Dash and Dot** was developed and piloted in 2018. (See attached summary of pilot program highlights.) If your school or organization is interested in sharing this quality hands on learning experience with girls in 3ʳᵈ – 5ᵗʰ grade, please complete this application and return to Eva Thelen at eva@cmfdl.org or mail to:

> **Children's Museum of Fond du Lac -- Attn. Eva Thelen**
> **75 W. Scott Street**
> **Fond du lac, WI 54935**

Please call 920-929-0707 if you have any further questions.

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

Contact name: _____

Contact email: _____

Which time of day do you prefer?   Morning   Afternoon   After School

Estimated number of students: _____

Children's Museum OF FOND DU LAC

Passport to the World

Coding with Dash & Dot

In the Spring of 2018, the Children's Museum of Fond du Lac developed **Coding with Dash and Dot**, a computer science learning experience which strategically targets girls in grades 3-5. This innovative program was made possible by a grant from **"Fondy 100 Gives"**. The purpose of the program is to introduce girls to a field that is largely underrepresented by females and support the development of technology literacy, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration.

Past Program Highlights:

- 60 girls participated in the Spring 2018 pilot program from public, private, rural and urban schools (Chegwin Elementary, St Mary's Springs Academy and Shepherd of the Hills).
- Working in teams, the girls were able to use tablets and playful robots (Dash and Dot) to learn coding basics such as algorithms, loops, events, conditionals, functions, and variables.
- The program was met with positive feedback from teachers, students, and parents and sparked important discussions on the statistics of women in the field of computer science.
- When the students were asked "how many girls participate in our local middle and high school robotics programs", they guessed 80-100%. They were surprised to learn that it is less than 10% and were inspired to move the needle.

Upcoming offerings:

- All-day session of **Coding with Dash and Dot** at the Museum on Friday, October 19th from 9:00am – 3:00pm. ($10 members / $20 non-members). Note that FDL Public and Private are off this day. Call museum to register 920-929-0707.
- 4-6 hour in school program for 2018- 2019 school year. Fill out application if interested.

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