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Charlotte Hosts FIRST Lego League Jr Expo

This past Saturday, Charlotte Public Schools was host to a FIRST Lego League (FLL) Jr Expo at the Charlotte Middle School. The event featured 10 teams, including two teams from Parkview Elementary and two teams from Washington Elementary. About 55 students participated in the event.

The event kicked off with teams displaying programmable movable Lego models that were based off the FLL Jr challenge this season, Mission Moon. Students were responsible for researching what it would take to live on the moon. They worked collaboratively to build a model that provided basic needs such as food, water, air, and other supplies. Students then created a Lego moon base with moving parts such as rovers and conveyor belts to move supplies.

Students then showed off their ingenuity and creativity by creating a show me poster. The poster explained the process that the teams went throughout the season in order to complete their model. Once the models were displayed, a team of reviewers interviewed each team and learned about their processes, learning, and communicating with each other. Teams received awards based of their work of their models, show me posters, presentation skills, and ability to work together.

In addition to presenting to a review panel, students also participated in events related to the Mission Moon challenge. They created and tested straw rockets in a STEM design activity, learned about meteorites and, thanks to support from Michigan State University's Abrams Planetarium, had the chance to hold meteorites and a piece of the moon! Students enjoyed a



picture taking opportunity with a space pod and moon display. Lastly, teams came together to celebrate and receive awards during the closing ceremony.

Thank you to everyone who participated, including the coaches and parents that supported the students throughout the season. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped set-up and run the event. A big thank you to the Washington PTO, Parkview PTO, Charlotte Optimist Club, and Dr. Renee Owens DDS for their generous financial support that made this tremendous event possible. Finally, thank you to Charlotte Public Schools for providing an amazing venue for the event!

