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April 22, 2009

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MEDIA RELEASE

Local Students Win Regional Robotics Competition *BDJ STEM Academy Team Beats Out High Schools*

The robotics team, "Team 1748c," from the Bluford Drew Jemison Science Technology Engineering Mathematics Academy came in first place at the Atlantic Coast VEX Championship held at Coppin State University.

Daily, BDJ seventh grade students attend robotics class at Dunbar High School with the high school students. The BDJ team will attend the World Vex Championship in Dallas TX from April 30-May 3, 2009.

The media are welcome to visit the robotics class at Dunbar (2 pm class) or arrangements can be made to meet with BDJ students and instructor at a different time. The school is in the process of raising money to send the team to Texas. Assistance from the Baltimore media in getting the word out on the fundraising efforts prior to Tuesday, April 28 is appreciated.

The BDJ STEM Academy opened its doors in 2007 as the first all-male middle public charter school in Baltimore and the state. The school is currently enrolled with 255 sixth and seventh grade students; eighth grade will be added this fall.

BDJ Facts:

Demographics: all male; 98% African American

Free and reduced lunch: 81%

Attendance: 95.5%

6th Grade scholars MSA proficiency (2008): 68% reached proficiency in Reading; 51% in Math

- more -

School Day (*required of all students*)

Hours: 7 am to 7 pm

Meals: breakfast, lunch, and dinner

Instructional day: 7:35 am to 2:40 pm (starts with breakfast and assembly at 7 am)

Extended day: 3 to 7 pm (includes dinner)

Extended week: Three Saturdays/month, 9 am to 12 noon

Extended year: Five-week mandatory summer session focused on math and language arts

Days of instruction: 220 (state requirement is 180)

Curriculum: Language Arts (two periods per day), Math (two periods per day—students assessed daily); Science; Social Studies; Technology; Library Media; Reading and Writing Skills; Foreign Language (Spanish); Music; Physical Education; Visual Arts

To arrange for visits to the school or robotics class, please contact:

Carl Stokes, 410-276-3270 or

Kelley Ray, 443-255-4034

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