

STUDENTS SHOWCASE SUCCESS IN CLASSROOM

The Marty Indian School hosted the first Family Day to “showcase” the learning that is taking place in the various classrooms.

Over 40 family members were greeted by the MS Student Council and directed to various rooms for tours at the event

held on Monday, Nov. 17th.

The eighth grade students presented various content areas in each room. Family members were able to make cell cookies and look at that work showcased in Science, worked with IXL for Math as well as the Saxon curriculum,

Reading and Language Arts showcased poetry work and the Reading Plus software, Social Studies and Geography showed various Problem Based Learning products including the culture of American Tribes, the four seasons, and the Badlands.

Various educational booths were set up for the other stu-

dents to rotate through along with their family members.

Art Teacher Katherine Holding Eagle Turner showcased various art projects from the middle school students. SEPA did hands on activities including making silly putty and stress testing.



The South Dakota Innovation Lab booth provided guidance as participants built catapults. GEAR



UP had a book walk and provided information on their program, Talent Search did some coloring activities and give aways, and Mid-Central Educational

Coop did math riddles, math games with dice and cards, and various writing activities.

The Fort Randall Casino provided a great meal for all to enjoy which was sponsored by Family Engagement.

The event was a huge success.

SCHOOLS START USING SHARED TEACHER MODEL

• SDIL ASSISTS THREE DISTRICTS IN NEW TEACHING VENTURE

On a map, Wessington Springs, Lower Brule and Armour, are unlikely candidates for students working together, but a response to a lack of teachers in South Dakota has led South Dakota Innovation Labs (SDIL) to pilot a program with the three schools sharing one teacher.

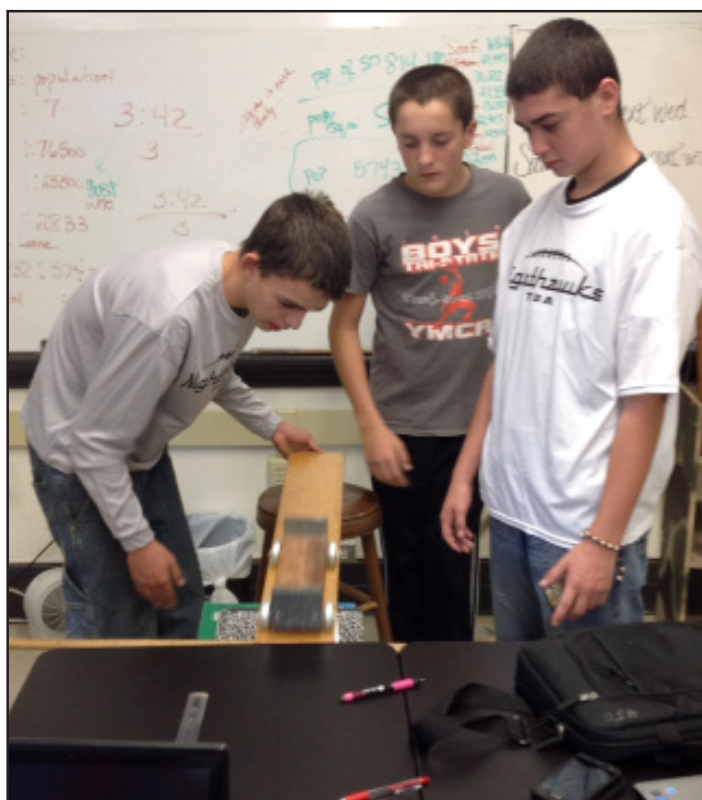
These three schools share a single science teacher for Biology and Physical Science. Utilizing technology and the state's DDN system, the three schools and their students cultivate solutions to a problem that crosses not only the miles between the three schools, but also curriculums – all with the guidance of educator Jeff Schneider.

Students are expected to be independent, inquisitive and involved in the classroom, evaluate each other's work and question the results, as well as lead the curriculum based upon their own curiosity.

Schneider travels to each school in a rotation, which allows for a teacher on the ground, an element that is missing in traditional distance education, as well as technologically.

Schneider practices Transdisciplinary Problem Based Learning (TPBL), which fosters a solution to a problem posed by the teacher. Students in the three schools take a relevant and current problem, such as Ebola, and through the process of developing a solution tackle the standards in Science, Math and English, among other disciplines.

Students recently addressed the real fear and probability of an Ebola outbreak occurring in South Dakota. Students researched and investigated the characteristics, transmission vectors of the Ebola Virus and other communicable diseases,



along with calculating the mortality and transmission rates.

Along with the discovery of diseases, students also developed a model of an epidemiological chart to determine carriers and agents of multiple diseases and examined the geographical relationship between disease transmission and location.

Schneider's students also took part in SDIL's Fall Fling, where students created, tested and utilized medieval trebuchets and catapults to demonstrate physical science concepts in a battle to hit their administrators with a water balloon.

Schneider utilizes state and NexGen standards in the classroom to create a curriculum that expands outside the traditional textbook and invites community resources and experts into the classroom to create a more relevant science experience for the students. Sanford Research provides support, materials and expertise in science materials that rural schools cannot afford to access.

