

March 2026

FCS INNOVATION ACADEMY

INNOVATION ACADEMY IS ENERGIZED FOR A
SPRING FULL OF INNOVATION & EXPLORATION

BUSINESS PARTNER
NEWSLETTER



A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL- SCOTT KENT

Dear Partners,

Thank you for the many ways you continue to support FCS Innovation Academy. Your time, expertise, and resources directly contribute to the meaningful, real-world experiences that prepare our students for future success.

This month alone, IA students have represented our school at statewide leadership conferences, competed in academic events, and led purpose-driven initiatives. These opportunities are possible because of partners like you.

We are excited to share a new way to extend that impact. Innovation Academy has been approved to participate in the Georgia Peach State Tax Credit Program, allowing individuals and businesses to redirect a portion of state tax liability to support IA at no additional cost.

Participation is entirely optional and simply offers another avenue for those interested in supporting student learning, workforce readiness, and innovative programming.

If you would like to learn more or connect with your organization's financial decision-maker, we would be happy to assist.

Thank you for your continued partnership and belief in the work happening at Innovation Academy.

What's Inside?

Peach Education Tax Credit

The PEACH Education Tax Credit lets you redirect your Georgia state income tax dollars directly to Innovation Academy at no extra cost. It is a dollar-for-dollar credit that keeps your tax dollars local and supports IA programs and student experiences. Learn more on page 2.

ENG Making Fun Event Recap

IA's Making Fun Engineering Day was a vibrant showcase of innovation as students transformed elementary student ideas into real prototypes. From building and testing to showcasing final creations, the day was filled with authentic STEM learning and joyful collaboration. We are grateful for the support of our community partners who helped bring this event to life.

Health Science Save-A-Life Event

IA's Save-A-Life Event offers students an immersive, hands-on healthcare simulation where they respond to a large-scale emergency scenario and practice critical thinking, communication, and leadership skills. This experience mirrors real healthcare environments and prepares students to perform under pressure while working as part of an emergency response team.

Fulton County Schools

Where Students Come First



KEEP YOUR TAX DOLLARS LOCAL!

The PEACH Education Tax Credit lets you redirect your Georgia state income tax dollars directly to Innovation Academy — at no additional cost to you. This is a 100% dollar-for-dollar tax credit (not a deduction).

WHY THIS MATTERS

Instead of sending your tax dollars to the state's general fund, you can directly support:

- Mentorships & internships
- STEM and innovation programs
- Curriculum development
- Teacher professional growth
- Real-world student experiences

ELIGIBILITY LIMITS

- **Single Filer:** UP TO \$2,500
- **Filing Jointly:** Up To \$5,000
- **LLC Member or Pass Through Entity:** Up to \$25,000
- **C or S Corporation:** up to 75% of annual Georgia income tax liability

Same Taxes. Greater Impact.

STEP 1: APPLY

- Apply for the PEACH Tax Credit
- Select "FCS Innovation Academy"
- Receive approval within approximately 10 days

STEP 2: DONATE

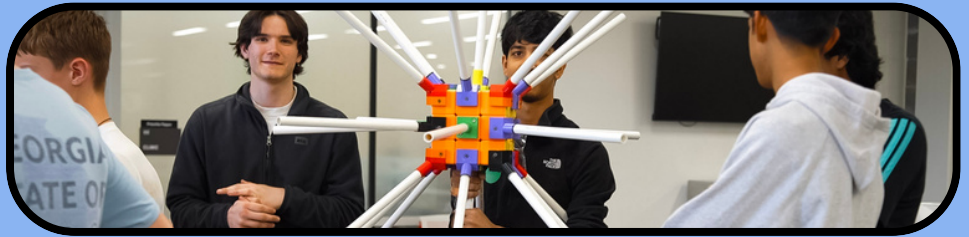
- Follow the instructions in your approval letter
- Submit your donation (online or by mail)
- Must be completed within 60 days of approval

STEP 3: CLAIM

- File Form IT-QED-TP2 with your Georgia tax return
- Receive your full dollar-for-dollar state tax credit



gfpe.org/tax_credit/



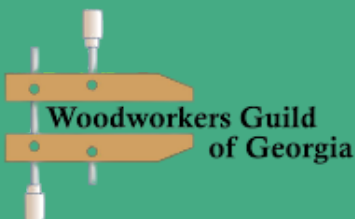
Innovation Academy's Making Fun Engineering Day was an incredible celebration of creativity, problem solving, and hands-on learning. Students spent the day designing, prototyping, and building solutions inspired by ideas submitted by our local elementary school students. The event was modeled after the Netflix series Making Fun, and we were honored to have cast members John Graziano, Paul Jackman, Derek Forestier, and Jimmy DiResta join us virtually for a high-energy keynote presentation that set the tone for the day.

Throughout the event, our campus buzzed with collaboration and innovation. Students shared that their favorite parts of the day included building their machines, learning to work as a team, and showcasing their final products to the students who inspired them. Many loved seeing teachers and volunteers get slimed, watching their builds erupt or function as intended, crunching to finish their prototypes on time, or working through real engineering challenges with their groups. The highlight of the day was definitely seeing the smiles on the elementary students' faces as their ideas came to life!

Students embraced every part of the experience with enthusiasm, using each challenge as an opportunity to learn, problem solve, and grow together. Their teamwork, creativity, and commitment to bringing imaginative ideas to life made the day truly inspiring. It was a powerful celebration of authentic STEM learning and a shining example of the innovative spirit of IA!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to our parents at Siemens, Cox Automotive, Roswell Fire Labs, McCarthy Building Companies and the Wood Workers Guild of Georgia for coming out and sharing your expertise!

MCCARTHY



COX
AUTOMOTIVE

SIEMENS



Project Photos

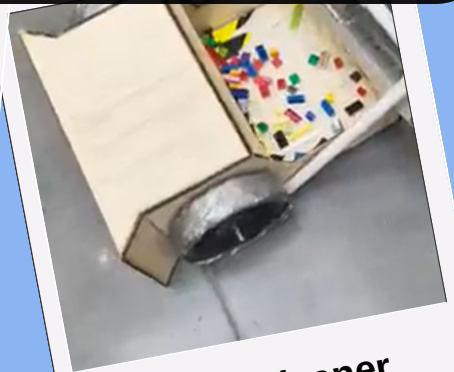
Photos by Ember & Rise



The Polar Popper



Pipin Popper Piper



Lego Cleaner



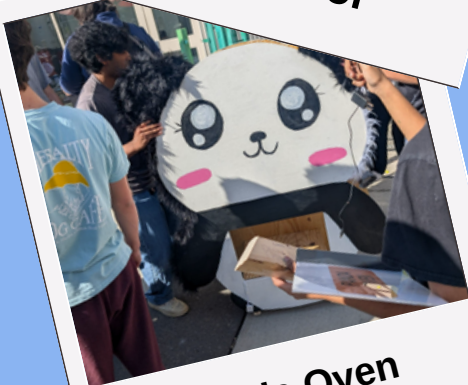
Ooze-Inator



Treehouse Ice Cream Float



Recycling Robot



Panda Oven



Ocean Cleaner



Dragons



Giant Rubix Cube



Volcano Town



Infinity Money



Candy Crush

HIGHLIGHT

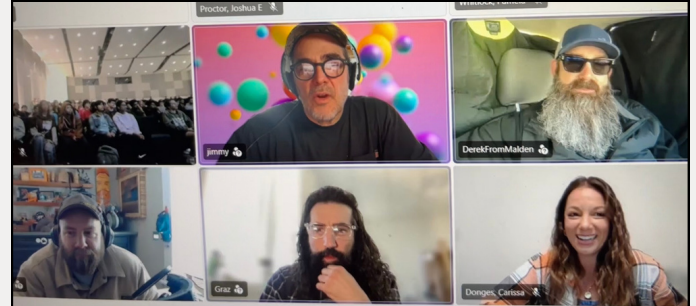
SOPHIA TARKHAN, JOIANA HOOKS, JOHN BITTINGER - COOPER CAREY

Cooper Carry Architects has partnered with students at FCS Innovation Academy to guide them through foundational architecture skills while supporting the design of a new outdoor classroom. As part of the collaboration, Cooper Carry created digital designs that students could explore and build upon as they applied their newly learned design principles.



JOHN GRAZIANO, PAUL JACKMAN, DEREK FORESTIER, AND JIMMY DIRESTA - NETFLIX'S MAKING FUN

We were thrilled to welcome Making Fun cast members John Graziano, Paul Jackman, Derek Forestier, and Jimmy DiResta as our keynote speakers. They generously shared their story, expertise, and behind-the-scenes insights while bringing their signature humor and creative energy to our students. Their willingness to connect, inspire, and entertain made the kickoff to our Making Fun Engineering Day truly unforgettable.



SIEMENS USA

We are incredibly grateful to Santiago Camargo, Sydney Masry, Kelsey Schaldenbrand, and Maria Ortiz Polo for volunteering at our Making Fun Engineering Day. Their support in fabrication and welding, along with their thoughtful design feedback, made a tremendous impact on our students' builds and learning experience. Thank you for sharing your time, skills, and expertise with our IA community.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

JASON LAMPERT



Class of 2024

Jason is a sophomore at Yale majoring in History with an emphasis in Assyriology. He is a peer tutor in the university's selective Directed Studies program, where he leads close analysis of foundational works in the Western canon.

Jason serves as a Senior Data Fellow at Decision Desk HQ and Secretary of the Yale Political Union, and sits on the Yale Committee on Honors and Academic Standing, volunteers as an Advanced Income Tax Assistant with the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, has served as a Committee Chair for high school delegates at both Yale Model United Nations Conference and Yale Model Congress Conference, and represents his peers on the Sophomore Class Council.

For his academic and public service work, Jason was awarded the Joe Rose '81 Government Service Fellowship to support an internship with Judge Steven D. Grimberg of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. He is also a Wang Family Scholar and earned a Dean's Note for exemplary research reevaluating the diplomatic and economic reception of the 1868 Johnson-Clarendon Convention.



Yale College Visit at IA

IA SPRING 2026 EVENTS

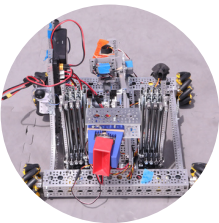


Sign Up for more information using the QR code or email Laura Taylor at TaylorLS@fultonschools.org



Making Fun!

2.27 Join us for a hands-on, imagination-fueled event where high school engineering students bring wild ideas to life—ideas inspired by the creativity of Elementary students! We're looking for volunteers with expertise in design, fabrication, and engineering to support students in building their inventions.



Engineering Flex Fridays

1.30 Engineering Flex Fridays are designed to give our students hands on, real world learning experiences connecting to Engineering. Topics our engineering students are exploring include ENG process design, hand tools, solidworks, 3d printing, pneumatics, welding and more!

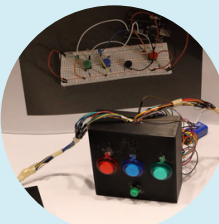
Health Science Flex Fridays

2.06 Health science Flex Fridays are designed to give our students hands on, real world learning experiences connecting to health science. Topics our HS students are exploring include patient care, nutrition, EMR, Biotechnology, Surgical tech and more!



Save-A-Life

3.27 IA's largest hands-on healthcare simulation returns for its third year! Students step into real-world emergency, clinical, and leadership roles as they respond to a large scale tornado disaster. If you are in the the medical field, we would love to have you work with our students!

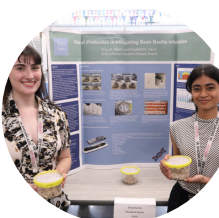


IT Flex Fridays

2.13 IT Flex Fridays are designed to give our students hands on, real world learning experiences connecting to Information technology. Topics our IT students are exploring are web development, programming, networking, AI, cryptology, game design and more!

Showcase

5.18 Join us for the showcase event, where students present their year-long projects, highlighting their creativity and innovation. Discover the unique solutions and original ideas they've developed. The showcase will be from 5:30pm - 8:00pm.



FLEX Fridays

On any given Flex Friday, we are asking for our Business Partners to help us with any of the following:

- Run a 2 hour workshop on skills relating to your field from either 10:15 - 12:15 or 2:00 - 4:00 (or both)!
- Give a TED talk style seminar
- Teach soft skills needed for the real world
- Present a real world problem solving challenge

INNOVATION ACADEMY'S 3RD ANNUAL **SAVE-A-LIFE** EVENT



AN IMMERSIVE HEALTHCARE EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS

Innovation Academy's largest hands-on healthcare simulation returns for its third year!

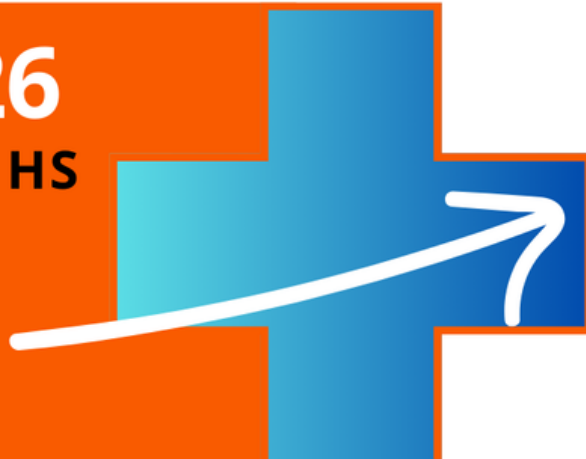
Students step into real-world emergency, clinical, and leadership roles as they respond to a large-scale tornado disaster.

This immersive experience challenges students to think critically, communicate effectively, and work under pressure—just like real healthcare and emergency personnel.



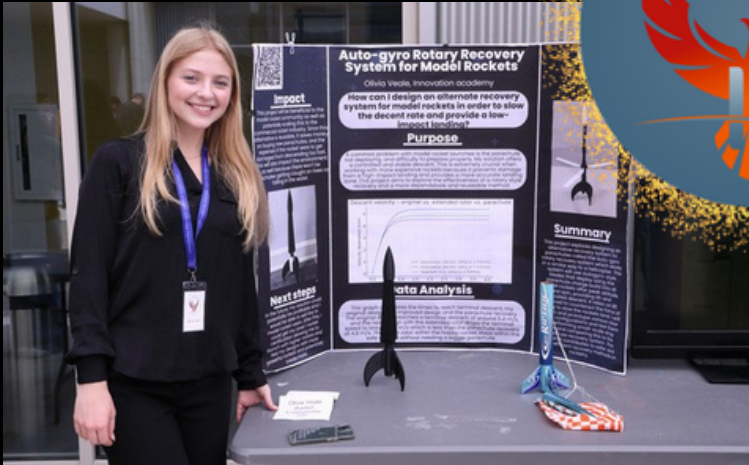
27 MARCH 2026
INNOVATION ACADEMY HS

Please consider helping
run a work shop or
assisting during the drill!





Discover Innovation...



Powered by Student Projects



Monday, May 18th, 2026

5:30pm-8pm

RSVP Here:



Showcase 2026

Fulton County Schools

INNOVATION

A C A D E M Y



flip side

**A NIGHT OF
INSPIRATION
IDEAS
CHANGE**

On February 26th, 2026, Innovation Academy hosted its second annual TEDxIA event, uniting students, educators, and community leaders for a night of inspiration and change. The theme, “Flipside,” focused on moments and ideas that ignite bigger passions or movements. Speakers covered diverse topics, from the psychology of boredom to strange ideas and creating change.

“Reflecting on this success, the TEDxIA committee is excited for next year's event, promising fresh perspectives and more intriguing conversations. Every year gets better than the next!” - Matthew Huang





INNOVATION
ACADEMY
FOUNDATION

Innovation Academy Foundation

SUMMER STEM CAMP

The IAF STEM Camp offers students an exciting opportunity to dive into the worlds of IT, Engineering, and Health Science. With a strong focus on science, participants will engage in hands-on projects and experiences that foster creativity, problem-solving, and innovation. Whether it's coding, building engineering prototypes, or exploring health science technologies, students will gain valuable skills and knowledge to inspire their future careers.

DIVE INTO THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

HEALTH SCIENCE: INDUSTRY SIMULATIONS AND SKILLS

ENGINEERING: PROTOTYPING, DESIGN, AND BUILDING

IT: CODING, COMPUTER HARDWARE, AND GAME DESIGN

SCIENCE: DEMONSTRATIONS AND EXPERIMENTS

Where:

FCS Innovation Academy
125 Milton Ave Alpharetta, GA 30009

Date:

Week 1: June 8th - June 12th

Week 2: July 13th - July 17th

9:00am - 3:00pm

Grades:

Rising 6th, 7th & 8th Graders

Cost:

\$350 for each week
(\$275 a week if you book both weeks)

Registration:

[STEM CAMP REGISTRATION](#)

www.tinyurl.com/IAFSummerStemCamp26

Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged. Participants are responsible for providing their own lunch and transportation to and from IA. Before and after care will not be available. Cancellations made less than 10 days prior to the camp will receive a 50% refund. Participation in this camp does not guarantee future admission to IA.



INNOVATION ACADEMY

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