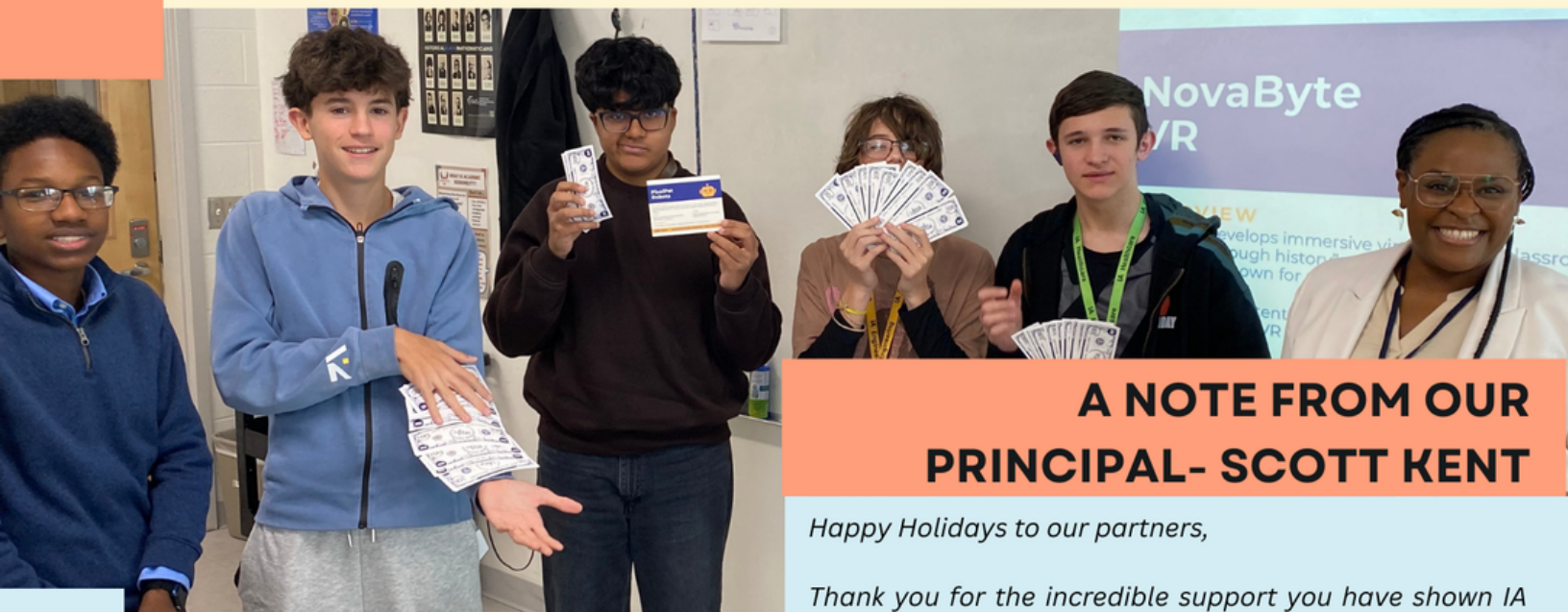


December 2025

FCS INNOVATION ACADEMY

INNOVATION ACADEMY FALL WAS FULL OF
EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STUDENTS!

BUSINESS PARTNER
NEWSLETTER



A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL- SCOTT KENT

Happy Holidays to our partners,

Thank you for the incredible support you have shown IA this year. I am continually impressed by the generosity of our business and community partners and the way you consistently show up for our students. Whether through your time, expertise, or financial support, your partnership is essential to what makes IA unique. Events like Flex Fridays, the Cultivate (Career-Ready Skills Event), and our Innovate IT Conference would not be possible without investment in our students. We are truly grateful.

Alongside these successes, it is important to be transparent about the challenges ahead. Due to a district-wide decline in enrollment, shifts in county tax allocations, and rising costs related to healthcare, retirement, and materials, next year Innovation Academy is facing a projected funding gap of more than \$80,000. With an annual discretionary budget of approximately \$400,000, this gap has real implications for the programs and experiences we work hard to provide.

We are already taking steps to tighten budgets across all departments. Even with those efforts, sustaining the quality and scope of our programming will require increased support from our partners in the coming year.

In the months ahead, I will share specific opportunities for supporting Innovation Academy. If you value the work we are doing and the impact it has on students, I ask that you consider supporting IA financially in 2026.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for believing in a model of education that is developing innovative leaders for a dynamic world.

What's Inside?

Innovate IT 2025

Innovate IT Conference brought together students, educators, and industry experts for hands-on workshops and panels on AI, cybersecurity, and more. With support from multiple partners, the event gave students practical skills, fresh perspectives, and inspiration to think critically about technology's role in the future.

Cultivate Success

Cultivate empowered students with real-world skills through panels, interactive workshops, and networking opportunities. From leadership and communication to college planning and emerging technologies, the event gave students practical tools and fresh perspectives for life beyond high school.

Spring 2026 Events

We invite you to review the incredible opportunities we offer and get involved with our students next year. Your expertise and support can help create transformative experiences that prepare the next generation for success—don't miss the chance to make an impact!



Innovate IT

Empowering the Next
Generation of Tech Leaders



Innovation Academy recently hosted its annual Innovate IT Conference, bringing together industry leaders, educators, and students for a day of immersive learning and collaboration. This year's event featured hands-on workshops, interactive panels, and cutting-edge sessions on topics like AI, cybersecurity, product management, and data storytelling.

We were honored to partner with Microsoft Education, Georgia Tech, UGA, GitHub, HPE, Improving, Project Protégé, and local IT professionals. Their expertise brought sessions like the Copilot Promptathon, AI literacy, cybersecurity, and agile development to life, giving students practical skills and fresh perspectives for future careers. The enthusiasm was evident throughout the day. Students praised sessions for being “fun,” “informative,” and “eye-opening.” These experiences not only strengthened technical skills but also inspired students to think critically about technology’s role in society.

Thank you to all our presenters, partners, and volunteers for making Innovate IT a success. Together, we are building confidence and capability in the next generation of innovators.



FCS Innovation Academy Presents

INNOVATE IT

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



PRODUCT
PROTÉGÉ



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School of Computing
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Together Let's Go Far



SOPHOS
DEFEAT CYBERATTACKS



Microsoft

IA
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Georgia
Tech.

TBD
Cyber





Innovation Academy hosted its annual Cultivate event, welcoming over 90 business partners who led dynamic workshops focused on professional readiness skills. The day was designed to prepare students for future careers by offering real-world insights and hands-on experiences across a variety of industries.

CULTIVATE

CONNECTIONS CONFIDENCE CURIOSITY

Students expressed overwhelming appreciation for the opportunity to learn from experts. They highlighted how much they enjoyed interactive sessions, including improv coaching, teamwork activities, and negotiation exercises, which helped them build confidence and communication skills. Workshops on resume building, college planning, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and emerging technologies were praised for being both informative and practical. Many students shared that these sessions opened their eyes to new career paths and gave them actionable strategies for success.



Panels in IT, healthcare, and engineering were particularly impactful, providing students with authentic perspectives from professionals in the field. Students also valued the chance to practice networking, leadership, and emotional intelligence, skills they recognized as essential for thriving in any workplace.

Thanks to the incredible support of our business partners, Cultivate continues to be a transformative experience that empowers students to think critically, communicate effectively, and prepare for life beyond high school. We are grateful for the time, expertise, and energy each presenter brought to make this event a success—and we look forward to building on this momentum next year!



Innovation Academy's

CULTIVATE

CONNECTIONS CONFIDENCE CURIOSITY

Thank You to our Sponsors!



Children's
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LORIUM LAW
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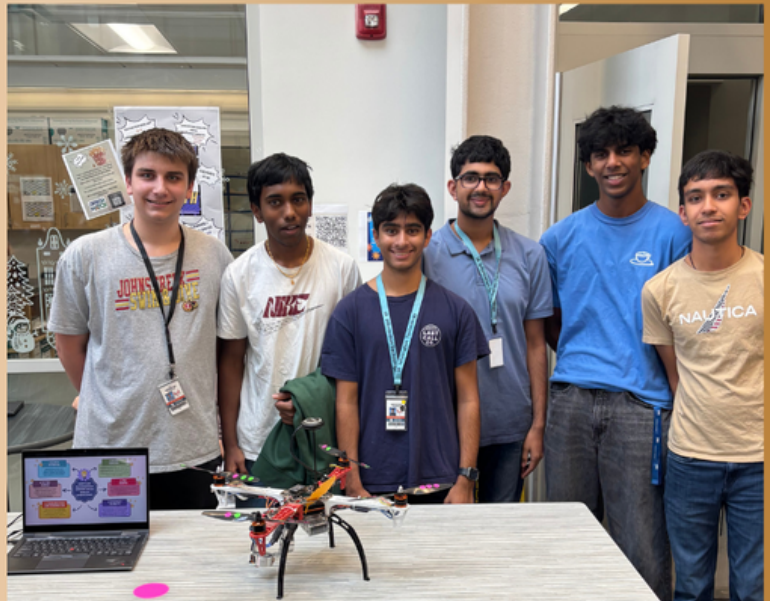
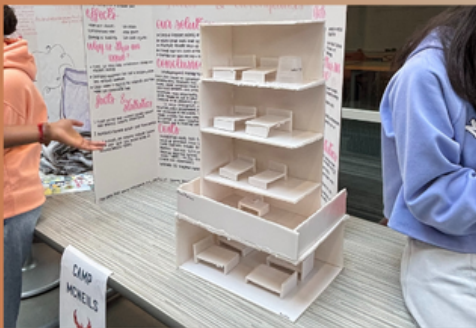
**PRODUCTION
ROCK
STARS**



PHOENIX PROJECT SHOWCASE

EMPOWERING GLOBAL CITIZENS TO RESPOND LOCALLY TO NATURAL DISASTERS.

In August, Innovation Academy launched the Phoenix Project with a dynamic kickoff event, setting the stage for three months of collaboration and innovation. Students met regularly in their “camps” to tackle global disaster-related challenges with local impact, moving from brainstorming to prototyping solutions.



The week before Thanksgiving, teams built their prototypes and welcomed feedback from the Alpharetta Rotary Club and other community members. Armed with this valuable input, students iterated on their designs and presented their final products during our Showcase Celebration.



A huge thank you to the Alpharetta Rotary and the IA Foundation for funding the prototyping materials that brought these ideas to life. Your support helped transform concepts into tangible solutions—and inspired students to see how their creativity can make a real-world difference.

Alpharetta
Rotary



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HIGHLIGHT

GERI GILLESPIY & KENRICK CHURCH - MICROSOFT

Geri Gillespy and Kenrick Church were instrumental in making our Innovate IT Conference a success, bringing over 20 Microsoft presenters to share expertise with students. Geri served as keynote speaker and led workshops on “Looking to the Future: Careers in Emerging Technologies,” inspiring students to explore emerging tech careers. They are eager to continue the partnership with IA!



ILESHA GRAHAM - THE GOOD LIFE BRAND, LLC

Ilesha Graham served as the keynote speaker for our Cultivate Conference, inspiring students with her session “What Nobody Tells You About Leading Yourself.” Through practical tools and hands-on challenges, she empowered students to build confidence, self-awareness, and resilience—skills essential for navigating school, life, and future leadership roles!



HAYLEE DORRILL - AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Haylee Dorrill has been an incredible partner to Innovation Academy this year, supporting students through multiple touchpoints. From serving on our college panel at Cultivate and hosting a recruiting table to organizing an unforgettable visit to Auburn University which included lunch, a Q&A with current engineering students, and a tour of Auburn's state-of-the-art engineering facilities. Haylee has gone above and beyond to connect our students with real opportunities and experiences.



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SPRING 2026

Sign Up Here!

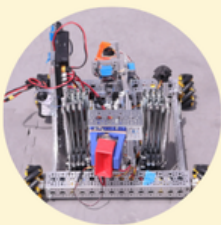


Making Fun!



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!

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

Health Science Flex Fridays



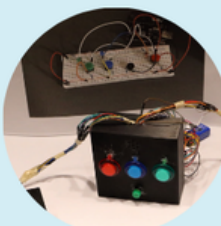
2.06 Health science Flex Fridays are designed to give our students hands on, real world learning experiences connecting to health science. Topics our HS students are exploring include patient care, nutrition, EMR, Biotechnology, Surgical tech and more!

Save-A-Life



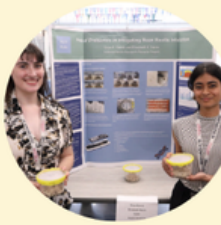
3.27 IA's largest hands-on healthcare simulation returns for its third year! Students step into real-world emergency, clinical, and leadership roles as they respond to a large scale tornado disaster.

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



4.30 or May 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. We are still waiting on graduation date and we will have an update in the spring on final date!



Making Fun 2.27.26 Calling All Industry Specialists!!!

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!

WHAT TO KNOW

1.

EVENT OVERVIEW

Elementary school students will receive imaginative prompts like:

- "If you could build a machine to make life easier, what would it do?"
- "What's something that could save the planet?"
- "Invent a toy that's half animal, half machine!"

They'll sketch, describe, and dream big—then our IA students will spend the day building these ideas and bringing them to life!

Use the QR code to sign up!



2.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We're looking for **volunteers with expertise in design, fabrication, and engineering** to support students in building their inventions. You'll be stationed in specialized areas such as:

-
- Textile Room
 - 3D Printing and Sewing
 - Machine Shop
 - Welding, Fabrication, Lathe Work
 - Wood Shop
 - CNC Routing

Your guidance will help students understand tools, materials, and processes—and bring their wildest ideas to life!



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Innovation Academy Foundation SPRING STEM NIGHT

Looking for a unique way to celebrate Valentine's Day? Enjoy a Friday night date night while your student dives into the exciting world of STEM! The IAF STEM Camp offers hands-on experiences in IT, Engineering, and Health Science, giving students the chance to code, build prototypes, and explore cutting-edge health technologies. With a strong focus on creativity, problem-solving, and innovation, this camp is designed to spark curiosity and inspire future careers—all while you enjoy a well-deserved evening out!

DIVE INTO THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- **HEALTH SCIENCE: INDUSTRY SIMULATIONS, SKILLS AND GAINING EMPATHY**
- **ENGINEERING: PROTOTYPING, DESIGN AND BUILDING**
- **IT: CODING, COMPUTER HARDWARE, AND GAME DESIGN**

Where: FCS Innovation Academy

125 Milton Ave Alpharetta, GA 30009

Date: February 13th, 2026

5:00pm – 9:00pm

Grades: 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade Students

Cost: \$75 (provide own dinner)

\$85 (pizza, chips & drink provided)

Registration: **STEM NIGHT REGISTRATION**

<https://tinyurl.com/my86p8tf>

Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged. Participants are responsible for 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'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!

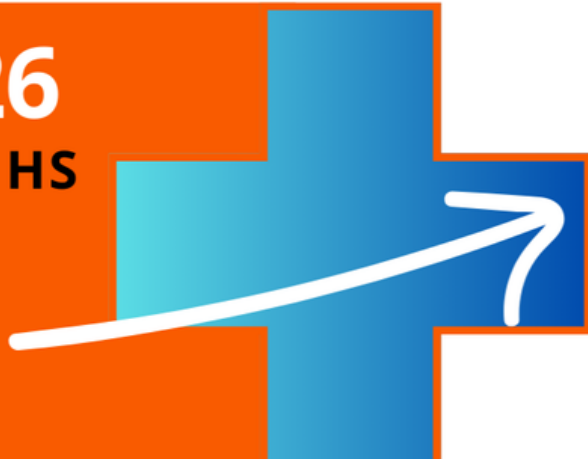
Students step into real-world emergency, clinical, and leadership roles as they respond to a large-scale tornado disaster.

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!



FUEL THE ROCKET

Fundraising Campaign

\$20,000

17,300 Raised

\$15,000

\$10,000

\$5,000



**INNOVATION
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Innovation Academy's Vision

To develop innovative leaders for a dynamic world. Our students experience a rigorous, collaborative environment that connects Career Pathways, STEM, and Humanities, fostering lifelong learning through design thinking and research skills.

Our Mission

To provide relevant experiences that help students develop innovative solutions for real-world problems.

Fuel the Rocket Campaign

We need your support to continue this journey. The Fuel the Rocket Campaign aims to raise funds to propel our "dream big" projects into reality. These projects are essential to our mission, providing students with the tools and opportunities they need to thrive.

How You Can Help

We seek support from business partners, the community, alumni, and anyone who believes in the power of innovation and education. Every contribution, no matter how small, brings us closer to our goal.

Join Us

Be a part of this incredible journey. Let's dream big, innovate, and create a brighter future together.

Donate Here Today!





INNOVATION ACADEMY

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