Contact: Stephen Sobierajski
(631) 560-5001
Stephen@we-connect-the-dots.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
11/30/2015

WILLIAM PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT SELECTED AS REGIONAL HOST SITE FOR INT'L HACKATHON

Registration Now Open for a New Kind of Learning Event

Darby, PA: Five locations around the world have become collective partners in a new kind of learning for students of technology and computing: the hackathon. So called because it involves finding clever ways to use computer programming languages and internet resources to find solutions to problems, a hackathon allows students to collaborate in a project-based environment to learn and use invaluable skills for the future.

This January, William Penn School District will become one of five locations, including Long Island, NYC, Kalamazoo, and Australia, to host the international hackathon concept designed by nonprofit We Connect the Dots. "We are very excited to be hosting this Hackathon," said Jennifer Hoff, School Board President of William Penn School District. "It's great content for the next generation of coders and its a great opportunity for school communities to shine"

The event, called the International Back-to-School Hackathon, is a consecutive forty-eight hour competitive gamified learning experience that teaches students how to code in HTML5. We Connect The Dots has also partnered with Microsoft to incorporate Microsoft Azure Solutions Platform to store student's projects. Students will work in teams of four to compete for prizes and to see who can develop the best project that addresses a social or human need while they learn valuable computer science skills that can be used outside of the classroom later in life.

On hand will be partners from the technology industry who will be delivering the instruction, valuable talks about the future of tech careers, and coaching for students. Members of the Microsoft Developer

Experience (DX) Team will be present to provide the students with insight to the work of a developer in one of the largest companies in the industry and to guide student through a very exciting program.

The Back-to-School hackathon promises to be an innovative educational program for students interested in learning more about coding and future careers. Registration for the Darby, PA location is open for students in all area school districts. More information regarding hosting, registration, volunteering, and sponsoring the program can be found at www.we-connect-the-dots.org/back-to-school-hackathon

WCTD's mission is to excite, inform and educate students about Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) careers. Through collaboration with the community, education, government and the technology industry, WCTD provides awareness and education of the 21st Century workforce skills, as well as the opportunities available to students embracing STEAM careers.