

Preparing young people for the future

One of the best ways to invest in the future is to invest in our children.

Last year, the Dominion Foundation and Dominion Virginia Power awarded more than \$110,000 to 36 schools in Virginia for hands-on learning [programs](#) for K-12 students. These programs are geared to help young people learn about science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)—through the study of energy and the environment.

At Denbigh High School in Newport News, the \$3,000 grant funded an “Engineering Your World” course in their Aviation Academy. Dr. Aaron Smith, overseer of the Aviation Academy, said, “Students love the hands-on activities and tools ... The intent of the course is not only to expose students to engineering, but also to [show] that learning can be intriguing and innovative at the same time.”

With their \$2,000 grant, students at Kemps Landing Magnet School in Virginia Beach are studying the environmental effects of reducing trash in landfills and creating organic fertilizer with farm worms and compost from the cafeteria.



Sophomores John Grizzard, left, and Hunter Cave of Denbigh High School in Newport News, VA, build a digital camera in their “Engineering Your World” course which is funded by the Dominion Foundation.

“The students love to feed the plants with the organic fertilizer... and are eager to take care of their environment,” said science teacher Jamie Young. She hopes students will compost and reduce waste at home.

Deep Creek Middle School in Chesapeake was awarded \$5,000 for its Breathe Deep Garden project, an outdoor classroom. Science teacher Paula Labbe shared, “We have been busy planning, planting, and pruning. Students who have never dug a hole are planting bushes. It has provided an opportunity for them to interact with nature and improve their school.”

Dominion is currently accepting [applications](#) for the 2013-14 academic year to help math and science programs.

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields have become increasingly central to U.S. economic competitiveness and growth.

—U.S. Department of Labor

Giving your kids an edge

Read to children. According to the U.S. Department of Education, reading with children is the “single most important way” to ensure their academic success.

Try science projects at home. Doing simple science experiments can help your child learn patience and foundational science concepts. Click here for easy [projects](#).

Be involved in their schoolwork.

Parents should talk to teachers about their child’s progress and reinforce at home what they’re learning in school.

Make learning fun. There are several low-cost programs for children to learn about science and the environment, like Dominion’s [Project Plant-It](#).

