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## CHILDREN'S SCIENCE CENTER'S FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

**For Immediate Release -- February 27, (Fairfax, Va)** The Children's Science Center Family Science Night program, which offers 12 engaging, hands-on STEM activities in alignment with the Virginia Standards of Science Learning to all of the region's elementary schools through an application process, is now accepting applications for the 2019-20 school year. Children's Science Center coordinators and community volunteers, including corporate sponsors' employees, facilitate these evening events twice a week, supporting family-learning experiences that encourage children to pursue STEM subjects through higher academic levels. By the end of the current school year, the Family Science Night Program will have traveled to 57 schools, nearly half of which are Title I (40 % or more of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch) throughout Northern Virginia.

The 2018-19 program is supported through a premier sponsorship from United Bank, whose employees volunteer as facilitators at Family Science Night events. United Bank has recently renewed their sponsorship for 2019-20 school year.

"We are thrilled to partner with an organization that engages local children in STEM learning, especially economically disadvantaged youth and groups underrepresented in STEM," said Kevin Reynolds, regional president and director of sales for United Bank. "We are proud to help deliver these opportunities and inspire our future leaders while creating memorable family experiences that build a stronger community."

St Veronica Catholic School in Chantilly recently held a Family Science Night program for their students and families. "The Children's Science Center Family Science Night program was an incredible opportunity, coordinated by our PTO, for a fun, family night event to further support our in-class STEM initiatives here at St. Veronica and to continually encourage our students to develop curiosity in STEM learning," said Michael Busekrus, Principal at St. Veronica Catholic School. "The staff at the Children's Science Center make organizing and running your school's Family Science Night very easy and with a relatively small time commitment from your dedicated volunteers," said Susan Dadio, President of the St. Veronica PTO. "We can't wait to apply for the Children's Science Center to hopefully come back to St. Veronica again," said Dadio.

Family Science Night Program applications for the 2019-20 school year are now being accepted. Teachers, and parents may apply for their school by submitting an application by April 1, 2019. Visit [childsci.org/fsn](http://childsci.org/fsn) for more information.

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The Children's Science Center's mission is to inspire a love of learning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by providing unique opportunities to explore, and create. The Children's Science Center Lab is located at Fair Oaks Mall and is Northern Virginia's first interactive museum where children, families and school groups can explore STEM concepts through fun, engaging hands-on exhibits, activities and programs. In addition to the Lab and community programs, the Center is working to fulfill the vision of a full-scale, world-class, interactive science museum to be located in Dulles, VA. The Children's Science Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Learn more at [www.childsci.org](http://www.childsci.org).



**Pictured: (center) Children's Science Center Executive Director Nene Spivy, United Bank Fairfax West Market President Kurt Marx, St. Veronica Catholic School Principal, Michael Busekrus, along with team members, United Bank employees, school volunteers and children from St. Veronica Catholic School.**