Last year we had our HackIT event focused on Cybersecurity. Bryan McAninch, Founder and Executive Director of Prevade Cybersecurity, helped students learn more about Cybersecurity while students embarked on an exciting game of Capture the Flag. Students had a great time and enjoyed some friendly competition. We did not offer our HackIT event last Fall so we could partner with Capital One on our next event this January. This year, HackIT Presents: Codefest sponsored by Capital One. Employees from Capital One will be instructing and mentoring students through the creation of a game. Students will learn about programming and work together to enhance their game using the skills they learn throughout the day. This event is open to Middle and High Schoolers.
Last year we had another great turnout for our annual G.I.R.L.S. STEM Symposium. This two day event was packed with learning, speakers, industry professionals, and fun. One student commented “It made me realize that technology is a lot more fun than I thought it was.” The event is setup to allow students to explore technology as it relates to business with hands on activities and modules. One of the highlights was “Friday night when we all got together and talked to other people that are in the industry and had dinner with them.” The evening dinner is always a highlight of the event and allows participants connect with others in the field in a casual environment. This year will be another great event and we are adding more industry engagement with a Reverse Career Fair. Girls will be able to talk to industry professionals and learn more about what they do and how they got into the field.

This year will mark our 5th annual summer camp. Every year has been special for various reasons. One of the highlights of last year’s ITS Exploration camp was our visit to Microsoft. Students really enjoyed learning about the real world uses of technology, not to mention the fun they had playing at the store. This is one of my favorite events and I really enjoy watching students transform throughout the week. Students always comment on how much they enjoy meeting other students with similar interests. The camp is very engaging with several hands on activities. We are still in the planning stage of this year’s summer camp. Stay tuned for more details coming soon.