

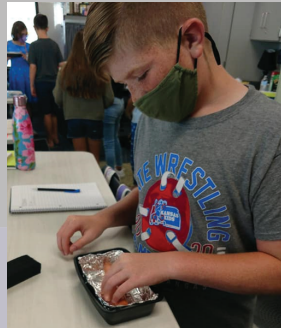
#FROM^{the}HELM *Piper* USD 203



of A TRADITION EXCELLENCE

SCIENCE NEVER TASTED SO GOOD!

Fifth Grade Students in Mrs. Damron's class at Piper Creek Elementary constructed and experimented with solar cookers. After lining their "ovens" with foil, they placed a hot dog inside and sealed it. They then let them sit out in the sun for approximately five hours. Periodically, they checked the temperature of one of the dogs and found that it rose from near 65° to a high of 147! At the end of the five hours they then took the box inside, opened it and looked at the differences that the sun caused. They learned how dark colors absorb heat, how the foil reflected sunlight, and how the lid trapped that heat and light in to "cook" the hot dog. Those who wanted to were then able to taste their project. Here are some photos from Mrs. Damron's students.



SPOTLIGHT ON JULIE FRIESEN **Piper Middle School STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) Teacher**

In order to meet an urgent national need for more young people to pursue studies and careers in science and engineering, **the STEM Center for Education and Outreach at the United States Naval Academy provides STEM Educator Training (SET) programs.** The primary goal of SET Sail is to train educators in hands-on activities and project-based learning methodologies developed for critical content areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, scalable to all grade levels.

Created in 2011, two professional development workshops are offered as a residential program held on site in Annapolis, MD. One week to teachers from public and private K-12 schools throughout the country (civilian week) and one week to teachers from Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools around the country and overseas. The training guides teachers in a project-based, hands-on methodology that supplements mandated content areas with activities that emphasize real-world applications. The activities are selected to align with national standards in science and math education (e.g. NGSS - Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core).

Thirty teachers from across the country were selected to attend this year's workshop for a week of training in Annapolis during the month of July. We were thrilled to announce that our own Julie Friesen was selected to attend this prestigious workshop.

Additionally, Piper Middle School was selected as an **Amazon Future Engineer (AFE) school - a partnership between Amazon and Project STEM** - to improve access to computer science education in communities currently underrepresented in the technology field. **This was made possible by Julie Friesen applying and being named an Amazon Future Engineer Educator!**

Currently, there are 1.4 million computer science related jobs available and only 400,000 computer science graduates with the skills to apply for those jobs. Many students eager to fill that gap and obtain a high paying job in technology do not have access to computer science in their middle and high schools.

Amazon and Project STEM are partnering to address this gap by sponsoring teachers and administrators who demonstrate this need and are committed to bringing computer science to their school. This content also includes fully sequenced and paced digital curriculum for students, and professional development for educators new to learning or teaching computer science.

Congratulations to Julie and Piper Middle School!

