



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Last week one of our faculty members travelled to NASA's Langley Research Center to participate in an educational workshop that highlighted the results of the NASA Epic Challenge Program and the Innovative Conceptual Engineering Design (ICED) methodology that is being implemented to infuse creativity into the engineering design process. Educators were invited to share their experiences and ideas on pedagogy, curriculum development, learning dynamics, and student assessment.

The ICED program is an integrated approach to teaching basic engineering concepts and problem-solving techniques. The methodology seeks to encourage students to explore, experiment, fail, discover, and learn in virtual and physical environments. Diverse groups of students—engineers, artists, designers, scientists—work as a team to explore an open-ended design space and combine their analytical/logical brain skills with their artistic/creative/innovative brain skills in conceiving and developing innovative solutions.

BCA students have had the opportunity to partner with NASA in the Epic Challenge Program utilizing the ICED methodology. This program challenges students with topics such as Sustainable Human Habitation of Mars. Student teams must address issues including how do we get there, how do we produce food to sustain a community, and what does housing on Mars look like. Employing the ICED methodology, our educators are creating a culture of creativity in the classroom that allows students to propose unique and holistic ideas to solve their challenges.

Sincerely,

Howard Lerner, Ed.D.
Superintendent