



SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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For Immediate Release

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Spring-Ford Area School District School and Community Engagement Consultant

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Spring-Ford Area School District Students Build Maglev Trains and Participate in Maglev Competition with Neighboring School District *Photo/Media Opportunity*

ROYERSFORD, PA – Spring-Ford's 7th grade students are participating in the 4th Annual Maglev Train competition with 6th grade students from North Wales Elementary School, in North Penn School District. Researchers have turned to a new technique, one using electromagnetic rails and trains, to provide faster and more efficient methods of transportation. This rail system is referred to as Magnetic Levitation, or Maglev. Maglev is a generic term for any transportation system in which vehicles are suspended and guided by magnetic forces. Instead of engines, Maglev vehicles use electromagnetism to levitate (raise) and propel the vehicle. Alternating current creates a magnetic field that pushes and pulls the vehicle and keeps it above the support structure, called a guide way.

This project will help to increase student understanding of their Technology Education class, while making a real-world connection to cutting edge technology that is being developed. Communication, leadership and academic research will make this a project our students will not soon forget.

WHEN: March 30, 2015 at 11 a.m.

WHERE: Spring-Ford 7th Grade Center, room E-138

DETAILS: SFASD students will Skype with 6th Grade students from North Wales Elementary School, in North Penn School District. During the Skype session, students will discuss how they built their Maglev Trains, what they found to be successful and what they would do differently. Students were divided into teams of 6-8 students, and each team member had a responsibility for a certain part of the project including:

- Project manager
- Research planner
- Design Planner
- Map/Route planner
- Presentation planner
- Building planner
- Testing & Redesign Coordinator

Each team researched, designed, drew and built their magnetic levitation train. The train had to weight more than .70 ounces. The teams were responsible for designing a travel route starting in New York, NY and ending in San Francisco, CA. The teams choose three additional cities with a population of more than 500,000 to stop make a pit-stop. The teams also kept track of their costs associated with the project including Maglev train station fees, travel route costs and testing expenses.

CONTACT: Contact SFASD teacher Ian Fickert, ifick@spring-ford.net, for more information about this project.

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