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Bedtime Math Announces Math Club Partnership with Victoria Foundation and Newark Public Schools

More than 60 Crazy 8s After-School Math Clubs Launched for Over 1,000 Elementary School Students

SUMMIT, N.J. (Nov. 2015) – Bedtime Math, a national nonprofit known for its mission to make math fun, has partnered with Victoria Foundation and Newark Public Schools to launch more than 60 Crazy 8s clubs in 19 Newark elementary schools, bringing STEM content to over 1,000 kids.

Crazy 8s is a high-energy after-school math club designed to give kids hands-on experience with math. Clubs meet once a week for eight weeks, serving groups of 10 to 20 kids in either grades K-2 or 3-5. Unlike competitive, test-oriented clubs, Crazy 8s aims to make math approachable for any child, not just those who already love math. Hands-on activities like Toilet Paper Olympics and Bouncy Dice Explosion show kids that math is approachable, tangible and fun.

Bedtime Math’s free club kits provided nearly all materials, including simple instructions for each session. Victoria Foundation contributed the funding to cover incidental items for the clubs. Teachers were recruited to run the clubs through Newark Public Schools’ Office of Expanded Learning Time and trained by Bedtime Math.

“Crazy 8s creates an atmosphere where kids build stuff, run and jump, and make music in order to explore and enjoy numbers. It is nothing like math in the classroom, and yet in making math fun it builds the critical math skills that kids need,” said Laura Overdeck, founder of Bedtime Math. “Making kids fluent and comfortable with math has been shown to boost academic success, which in turn prepares them for later success in STEM careers and in daily life. Our partnership with Victoria Foundation and Newark Public Schools serves as a model for all cities seeking to bring STEM to after-school programs.”

Irene Cooper-Basch, executive officer of Victoria Foundation, added, “For decades, Victoria Foundation has been committed to making a positive difference in the lives of low-income children and families in Newark. Not only does this partnership align with our mission to improve the educational outcomes for children in our community, but it allows them to experience math in a whole new way. So many kids don’t get to enjoy math for pleasure. We’re proud to make this happen in Newark, and hope that other cities will follow our lead.”
“This is the part of the day I enjoy the most. It’s just simply pure fun,” said Cassandra Boodhoo, a teacher and Crazy 8s coach at First Avenue School in Newark. “The kids are really excited about it. Not only are they learning how to problem solve, but they’re learning how to do it together as a group while doing fun things. It’s a great avenue, and they love it.”

Crazy 8s was created by Bedtime Math Foundation, a private operating foundation. All royalties from founder Laura Overdeck’s series of children’s books go back to the foundation to support Crazy 8s and other programs. With more than 5,000 clubs serving over 60,000 kids, Crazy 8s may well be the nation’s largest math club for elementary-age children.

The following 19 Newark elementary schools are currently hosting a Crazy 8s Club:

- Abington Avenue School
- Ann Street School
- Branch Brook School
- Cleveland Elementary School
- First Avenue School
- George Washington Carver School
- Harriet Tubman School
- Lafayette School
- Louise A. Spencer Elementary School
- Lincoln Elementary School
- McKinley Elementary School
- Oliver Street School
- Park Elementary School
- Ridge Street School
- Roberto Clemente Elementary School
- South Street School
- Speedway Academies
- Sussex Avenue Renew School
- Wilson Avenue

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**About Bedtime Math Foundation**

Bedtime Math Foundation is a nonprofit organization that seeks to put the fun and discovery back into learning math. Its core product is a zany online math problem that parents can do with their kids every day, to make recreational math as common and beloved as the bedtime story. Bedtime Math is also the creator of Crazy 8s, a lively, hands-on after-school math club that has been launched in more than 5,000
locations nationwide. Bedtime Math and Crazy 8s are registered trademarks of Bedtime Math Foundation. For more information, visit www.bedtimemath.org.

About Victoria Foundation
Victoria Foundation is a New Jersey-based private grant-making institution, which was founded in 1924 by Mr. Hendon Chubb to honor his mother, Victoria Eddis Chubb. The Foundation has awarded over $225 million in grants, focusing its giving over the past 50 years to ameliorate the suffering of children and families living in poverty in Newark, New Jersey. For more information, visit www.victoriafoundation.org.