

Excellence in Afterschool Education



Grafton students in grades 6 through 12 work with computer science researchers from the University of North Dakota to learn computer programming using educational concepts from science, technology, engineering and math, otherwise known as (STEM). Students used a small inexpensive computer to learn programming languages and how to work with the Linux operating system.

Eighteen students were fully engaged in a 21st Century Community Learning Center afterschool science workshop. The workshop, a collaboration by Grafton Middle School STEM Teacher, Jolene Hermanson, 21st Century Community Learning Center Program Director, Lori Zahradka, and three UND Computer Science researchers (including Aaron Bergstrom) taught the students how to install a Linux computer operating system on the computers.

The students were able to use a low cost, credit-card size computer called Raspberry Pi. The device plugs into a computer monitor or TV and uses a standard keyboard and mouse. Raspberry Pi has the capability to do everything a desktop computer can do such as browse the internet, play high-definition video, make spreadsheets, word-processing and more.

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