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## Celebrating 20 years of bringing science to life

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### **More than 4,500 Dakota County students participate in Science Museum of Minnesota field trips and assemblies**

**Dakota County, Minn.** – More than 4,500 elementary school students from 25 schools in Dakota County are learning to think like scientists and engineers this semester through assemblies and field trips provided by the Science Museum of Minnesota. This opportunity is part of the *Experience Science* program, a partnership between the Science Museum and Flint Hills Resources that began in 1998.

The 2018-2019 *Experience Science* program runs January through April. Through this program, students attend field trips and assemblies that complement existing curriculum and fulfill academic standards in science and engineering.

“For 20 years, the *Experience Science* program has been an invaluable resource that provides students with unique experiences to innovate, learn, and interact with STEM concepts,” said Alison Rempel Brown, president of the Science Museum of Minnesota. “It’s wonderful that this program continues to flourish with ongoing support from Flint Hills Resources.”

During the assemblies, instructors from the Science Museum use interactive models to show examples of real-world engineering problems and help students think through the process of solving them. Schools can choose assemblies about dinosaurs, water or engineering. On the field trips to the Science Museum, students learn how to combine math, science, creativity and curiosity to effectively think like engineers. Students are challenged to consider how museum exhibits are made, what materials were used to build them, and what problems were likely solved along the way.

“We know that careers in science, engineering and other STEM fields are the way of the future,” said Heather Rein, director of community affairs at Flint Hills Resources. “Flint Hills Resources is passionate about providing opportunities for young people to develop

an early interest in these fields – and there’s no better partner to accomplish that goal than the Science Museum of Minnesota.”

[Click here](#) to download photos of a student from Red Pine Elementary in Eagan participating in a recent *Experience Science* assembly. The student pictured in the photos is 4<sup>th</sup> grader Jacques Kemp.

Elementary schools participating in the 2018-2019 *Experience Science* program include:

Apple Valley

Greenleaf  
Diamond Path  
Cedar Park STEM  
Highland  
Southview  
Westview

Burnsville

Echo Park

Eagan

Pinewood Community  
Northview  
Oak Ridge  
Woodland  
Thomas Lake  
Red Pine

Hastings

Christa McAuliffe  
Pinecrest  
Kennedy

Inver Grove Heights

Pine Bend  
Hilltop

Lakeville

East Lake

Rosemount

St. Joseph School  
Rosemount  
Shannon Park  
St. John the Baptist

South St. Paul

Kaposia Education Center  
Lincoln Center

**About the Science Museum of Minnesota**

The Science Museum of Minnesota is one of the state’s oldest and best-known cultural institutions, with a history dating back to 1907. The museum serves hundreds of thousands of people each year with a combination of cutting-edge technology, high-tech entertainment, and a world-class collection of fossils and artifacts spanning billions of years of the earth’s history. The Science Museum uses fun, innovative programs to help break down barriers in education and help everyone realize that they can be a scientist. The Science Museum of Minnesota consistently places first in Twin Cities rankings for favorite museums, favorite family outings, and best date nights. For more information, visit [smm.org](http://smm.org).

**About Flint Hills Resources**

Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery produces transportation fuels used throughout the Midwest, including most of Minnesota's gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, as well as other products people rely on such as propane and asphalt. Located 17 miles southeast of Minneapolis, Pine Bend has a capacity of 339,000 barrels per day and is among the cleanest, most efficient, and safest oil refineries in the country. Flint Hills Resources directly and indirectly supports more than 4,000 Minnesota jobs and has invested nearly \$1.7 billion on upgrades and improvements to its Minnesota facilities since 2010. With 1,000 full-time employees, the Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery is one of the largest employers in Dakota County. More information about the company is available at [pinebendrefinery.com](http://pinebendrefinery.com).

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