

## Kempsville Middle Journeys into Weather Monitoring

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KEMPSVILLE

Kempsville Middle students are the latest to catch the bug.

Their school installed a WeatherBug system to join Old Donation Center, Lynnhaven Middle and Ocean Lakes High schools as well as more than 8,500 schools nationwide as local tracking weather stations.

The system is affixed to the library roof and is visible to all sixth-through eighth-grade classrooms.

The equipment features gauges and sensors to measure rain, light, temperature, wind speed, dew point and humidity.

Minute-to-minute weather data is continuously updated on a digital readout unit in the library.

"The new program will turn our students into budding meteorologists," said principal James Smith.

Not only can the station help provide real-time weather conditions to WAVY-TV meteorologists and the surrounding community, it also enhances curriculum under a program called WeatherBug Achieve. It was developed by WAVY and AWS Convergence Technologies Inc.

WeatherBug Achieve integrates real-time local and national weather data and camera images into science, math, technology, language arts and geography lessons for students.

School computer resource specialist Diann Caviness recently held a training session for 29 Kempsville Middle School teachers.

Two weeks later, social studies teacher Charlene Olson brought her sixth-grade students to the computer lab to embark on an expedition through the Lewis and Clark Weather Portal.

The youngsters read excerpts from Lewis and Clark's journals and answered questions about specific dates, including details about their location, wind and temperature.

"It ties in what happened back then to today," said Caviness.

This is just one of the activities, including information, lesson plans, tutorials and projects, available to the school through its lifetime membership in the WeatherBug Achieve program.

Eighth-grade science teacher Amanda Maloney and gifted resource teacher Missy Sullivan will begin to use the WeatherBug Meteorologist of the Day project Friday.

"They will print the day's forecast and it will be a part of the morning announcements," said Maloney.

Added Caviness, "I work with teachers to incorporate technology into their lessons. Achieve has given them their lessons on a silver platter."

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