



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Halifax County, NC – May 22, 2023

Halifax County Schools Takes Students on an Incredible Visit to Google in Durham

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Halifax County, NC - Halifax County Schools recently took a group of students on an unforgettable trip to Google's Durham, North Carolina facility. The trip was organized to expose the students to the world of technology and inspire them to pursue careers.

Google has long been recognized as a leader in the tech industry, and

the students were excited to see what the company had to offer. The group was also allowed to meet with employees and learn about their experiences working at one of the most cutting-edge companies in the world.

"Google is proud to call North Carolina home to our Durham office and our data center in Lenoir. As an extension of our presence in the state, we work to provide insight and encouragement to those who use our tools and products and who hope to one day be a part of the team that built them. We were excited to have had Halifax County students participate in our office visit and learn about the many careers available to them in STEM fields", Lilyn Hester, Head of Southeast External Affairs & Government Relations, Google.

The visit to Google was part of Halifax County Schools' efforts to provide students access to high-quality educational opportunities outside of the traditional classroom setting. By exposing students to real-world experiences and encouraging them to explore their interests, the school system hopes to inspire the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs. The students who participated in the trip were selected based on their interest in technology and their potential to become field leaders. Several teachers accompanied them, and administrators provided guidance and support throughout the visit.



Aysha Asmedh, System Engineer, states, "This trip will initiate many thought processes and directions. It is great exposure for the kids, which encourages students and provides them with better direction as well as a more complex understanding".



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Students were also given a tour of the facility, allowing them to see firsthand the various departments that comprise the organization. The students were particularly interested in learning about the skills and education required to work at Google. They were impressed that the company values diversity and encourages employees from various backgrounds as well as skill sets.

Superintendent Dr. Cunningham states, “As I observed our students on the field trip to Google, it confirmed that rigor and relevance are essential to their education. The innovative and dynamic environment at Google showed our students how to apply what they are learning in the classroom to real-world situations. This experience reinforced the value of providing our students with a curriculum that challenges them and prepares them for success in the future.”



The students also learned about the different educational paths that can lead to these jobs. For example, a software engineer might need a bachelor's degree in computer science, while a data scientist might need a master's degree in statistics or mathematics. The visit also helped the students understand the importance of diversity and inclusion at Google. The company is committed to creating a workplace where everyone feels welcome and respected.

For example, Google offers a variety of programs and resources to support women and underrepresented minorities in the tech industry. In addition, the visit helped students to see how their education can prepare them for a career in a diverse and inclusive workplace. It also gave them a better understanding of what it's like to work at a company committed to these values. Some specific examples of the types of jobs that the students learned about include Software Engineer, Product Manager, Marketing Manager, and Public Policy.

Dr. LaVonne McClain, Director of CTE and Secondary Education, adds, “Representation matters in high-demand industries. Our students were able to speak with panelists with similar backgrounds as their own who are thriving in STEM and business careers.”

Overall, the visit to Google was an eye-opening experience for the students. It gave them a glimpse into the 21st Century, the world of technology, and the exciting career opportunities available. The students also learned about the Grow with Google Career Certification program, so they can now learn in-demand skills.

