



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan educates Leland School students and families on importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math



MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan looks into virtual reality glasses with Leland Elementary School students.

Dozens of students and families took part in George Leland Elementary School's Family STEM night recently. Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Vice President Barbara McGowan was on hand to teach students about the MWRD's McCook Reservoir.

As a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) school, teachers and staff encourage activities that allow students to engage in activities that are entertaining yet also educational.

Leland School Principal Turon Ivy, Assistant Principal Palisha Daugherty and STEM Technology Specialist Naeem Karriem were on hand to answer questions and direct students to the two dozen educational booths scattered throughout the school.

"It was exciting to see the students engaged throughout the event," said Valandra N. DeBow Jones, STEM Integration Specialist. "Many of the students and parents are looking forward to the next STEM Family Night."

Eighth grade student Jeffrey learned about the MWRD's McCook Reservoir, a part of the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan that is designed to improve water quality and prevent flooding in the Chicago region. "It's amazing to think that this rock is 400 million years old," Jeffrey said.

"I think it's wonderful that young people at Leland School are offered opportunities to learn about STEM careers," said Vice



Leland School Principal Turon Ivy, MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan and Assistant Principal Palisha Daugherty draw attention to the STEM sign.



MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan tells eighth grade student Jeffrey about 400 million year old dolomite limestone extracted from the MWRD's McCook Reservoir.

President McGowan. "These children are our community's future leaders, and it's important they know about all of the wonderful careers that they can pursue."

The MWRD is one of the funding partners for Leland School's Space to Grow schoolyard. The partnership rehabilitated a section of the parking lot to use as outdoor space for teaching lesson plans. Leland staff and students were involved with planning the design of the space.

### Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD ([www.mwr.org](http://www.mwr.org)) is an award winning, special purpose government agency responsible for used water treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.