



## Calendar

### Saturday Academy I

September 19, 2009  
October 17, 2009  
November 21, 2009  
December 5, 2009

### OPT-ED Alliance Day

October 2, 2009

### Parent Academy High School Leadership

October 3, 2009

### NCCTM PERSIST

October 30, 2009

### NCSTA PERSIST

November 19-20, 2009

### Saturday Academy II

January 16, 2010  
February 20, 2010  
March 20, 2010  
April 17, 2010

### UNC PCP Science Decathlon

February 20, 2010

### East Coast Science Decathlon

Atlanta, GA  
March 27, 2010

### NC MSEN State Day UNC Chapel Hill

April 24, 2010

### Awards Day

May 15, 2010

### National Science Decathlon

TBA

### Summer Academy

TBA



*Saturday Academy Students – Session I!*

## Saturday Academy Session I

Students from Durham, Chatham and Orange Counties attended four class's mathematics, science, language arts and STEM competition. Students participated in a variety of hands-on inquiry based experiments. Students performed a forensic experiment using fingerprints, microscopes, animal skins and animal tracks. The middle schools played different games exploring geometry and algebra concepts. In the high school math classes, students worked on various problems to help them in their current math classes.

## PERSIST Update

PERSIST Scholars prepared and taught a mathematics or science lesson to Saturday Academy students. The students taught lessons on the following topics "Why Can't we Taste Food When We Have a Cold", "Acid Rain Experiment", "How the Human Brain Works", "Making DNA strands" and "Linear Functions." The Saturday Academy and other Pre-College teachers critiqued and evaluated the lessons. The lessons were interesting. The scholars were videotaped and they will prepare podcasts of their lessons. This semester scholars will participate in the science decathlon.

## Saturday Academy Session II

Session II started January 16 and will continue until April. The special event for the first Saturday was the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration. This year the students were divided into two teams and were given the task to debate whether the civil rights journey is over or does the civil rights journey need to continue. The students were shown videos of different civil rights movements from around the world. The Saturday Academy teachers facilitated the discussion and shared their experiences dealing with civil rights. The students selected representatives to talk on their behalf. The representatives were middle and high school students. The students were engaged in the discussion and the debate was excellent.

## FIRST Robotic Competition (FRC)



JC Penny Tar heel  
Team # 3331  
At Kickoff, 1/9/10

High school students from Durham, Orange, and Wake counties will be competing in the FIRST Robotic Competition (FRC). *FIRST stands For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.* The mission is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.

At the competition two alliances of three teams each compete on a 27' x 54' field with bumps attempting to earn points by collecting soccer balls in their goals. Additional bonus points are earned for each robot not touching the field at the end of the match.

**JC Penney Blindside Team #3331 will unveil the robot at the JC Penney, Cary Towne Center on Saturday, February 20, 2010 at 2:00 PM.** North Carolina will host a regional competition at Dorton Arena in Raleigh, April 1 – 3, 2010. This is the first time a regional will be held in NC. Note that the Blindside Team is considered a rookie team and the goal is to win rookie of the year. When we win the team will attend the National competition and be invited to the White House.

## State NC-MSEN Day – April 24, 2010

Center for Mathematics and Science Education (CMSE) and UNC Chapel Hill NC-MSEN Pre-College Program are looking forward to welcoming you all to Tar Heel Country.

The 2010 theme is “NC - MSEN Pre College Program: Empowers students for Global opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). There are 88 days until the competition.

## Other Upcoming Events

- Members of Blindside Team have been invited to FIRST Regional in Virginia with Awkward Turtles Team # 2108 in Cary NC – March 18 – 20, 2010
- National FRC Competition, Atlanta, GA, April 15 – 17, 2010 (When the Blindside team wins rookie of the Year at the Regional)

