LAKEVIEW WORKING HARD TO CREATE RADIO CLUB

KENOSHA, Wis. (Thursday, March 5, 2015) – The students of the newly formed Amateur Radio Club of LakeView Technology Academy are only a few hundred dollars away from their goal for building an amateur radio station at the school and experimenting with wireless technology.

The students were inspired by their physics teacher, Tim Overocker, who wanted his students to find deeper connections with the subject and plan some of their own lessons for fourth quarter when studying waves, sound, light, electricity and space. During their brainstorming sessions, the students found that the FCC Amateur Radio Technicians Exam covered all the standards they needed, including working satellites, the international space station, bouncing signals off of the moon and opportunities for interactive experiments and hands-on activities.

The Amateur Radio Club pitched the idea for a school radio station to LakeView principal William Hittman, who approved of the plan as long as the group received the funding independently and tied it to the curriculum. With their goal in mind, the group applied for two grants to fund the project. However, they were denied the first grant and did not receive a response about the second.

“When they were denied the first grant, the kids were devastated,” Overocker said. “But I told them it wasn’t the end and that we had more options to try to get this thing off the ground.”

Overocker then posted the group’s story to the Ham Radio Operators group’s Facebook page, asking for suggestions. The response from the group members was overwhelmingly supportive and enthusiastic, with people from all over the world wanting to donate equipment and making requests for the group to create a GoFundMe campaign so they could make monetary donations as well. They have since not only created a campaign, but raised more than $2,005 of their overall $2,500 goal as of March 5, which was raised in eight days by 43 people.

“These students went from sending their first fax three weeks ago to running a multi-nationally funded project,” he said.

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Kenosha Unified School District’s (KUSD) mission is to assure every child experiences high quality, personalized learning success. KUSD is the third largest public school district in Wisconsin, serving nearly 23,000 students. The district, created in 1967, includes the city of Kenosha, village of Pleasant Prairie and town of Somers. The district is lead by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Sue Savaglio-Jarvis. The district’s board of education has seven elected officials.
The group also collaborated to create a list of equipment to get them started and give them the flexibility to try as many activities as possible. The equipment includes, a mobile dual band base station and power supply, two antennas, a few hand-held radios, an upgraded antenna for the hand-held devices to better escape LakeView’s metal school building, two terminal node controllers, a small solar array, controller and battery, cables, accessories and a few reference books.

“The kids are so excited, because they know that even after they graduate, this will still be here,” Overocker said.

For further details of the project, review the LakeView Technology Academy’s Amateur Radio Club’s grant applications at goo.gl/4xw4o2. To make monetary donations to the club, go to gofundme.com/n75ecc. To donate equipment to LakeView Technology Academy’s Amateur Radio Club, send materials to Timothy L. Overocker, LakeView Technology Academy, 9449 88th Ave., Pleasant Prairie, WI, 53158.

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