



8th Grade Students Visit WPI



On Wednesday, November 28, over 40 8th grade students traveled to Worcester Polytechnic Institute to meet with the WPI Engineering Ambassadors (current undergraduate engineering students) and tour the WPI campus.

The Ambassadors gave a brief presentation about the Mars Curiosity Mission, then they gave the students a mission of their own. Working in teams, students had to utilize the engineering design process to imagine, design and create a landing device that would allow their "rover" (an egg) to land safely. Each team was given a bag of materials that were not identical to the other teams' materials, which contributed to the originality of the designs. All of the teams excitedly worked on their designs right up until it was time to test them by dropping them off a balcony to the floor below. Teams who successfully protected their eggs were triumphant, but the other teams were not defeated, as they gained insight into how their designs could be improved in the future.

After completing the engineering design challenge, the students went on a tour of the WPI campus. They learned about WPI's motto: "Theory and Practice", highlighting the idea that students need both an academic and technical hands-on education to succeed. They also learned that Robert Goddard blew a hole through the roof of one of the campus buildings while developing the first liquid fueled rocket. Although it was a bit chilly, the students all seemed to enjoy getting a taste of what a college campus is like.

After the tour, WPI Admissions Officer Sue Sontgerath gave a presentation about college geared specifically toward 8th graders. She discussed the benefits of going to college, including increased income, job security, making new friends, having new experiences and exploring new interests. She also encouraged the students to challenge themselves in high school, read, practice good study habits, explore careers through extracurricular opportunities, and be active members of their community.

Overall, the students had a great morning on the WPI campus! Thank you to WPI's Office of Admissions and Engineering Ambassadors Program for hosting the students, Intel for sponsoring the bus, and parents Kirsten Meizen, Jim Mooney and Phil Smith for chaperoning!

