

# COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## *Comstock STEM Academy chosen as state finalist in nationwide contest for the 3rd time in the past 5 years!*

**PRESS RELEASE - Kalamazoo, MI - November 21, 2019**

For the third time in the past five years, an idea submitted by students at Comstock STEM Academy has been selected as a state finalist in Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow contest. Last year's submission went on to be chosen as the sole representative for the state of Michigan, and earned \$20,000 in classroom supplies and technology for the kindergarten to eighth grade school which puts an emphasis on "STEM" subject matter: **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering and **M**athematics.

Seventh grade student Makenna Martin proposed an idea to give first responders a monitor under their uniform to help recognize elevated heart rates, along with a mechanism to adjust the temperature of the uniform with the intent to lower the heart rate. The idea was inspired by a classroom visit by Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell, and his discussion with the seventh grade class about the stressful nature of first responders' jobs. Martin thought that having a calming measure incorporated into a first responder's uniform could help keep officers and first responders calm to make the best decisions under stressful situations.

Makenna points out that "in our local park, Merrill Park, a memorial is being built right now for the fire chief Ed Switalski who died responding to an emergency on the expressway. There was a huge procession of police and firefighters that went past our school to honor the fire chief. There is a lot of stress to being a first responder, and I would like to help create a device that will help with stress and the symptoms of PTSD."

Comstock STEM Academy principal Chris Chopp wants to involve the entire seventh grade class in the development of this idea, with the hopes of advancing in the Solve for Tomorrow contest over the next month or so.

For more information on the Samsung "Solve for Tomorrow" contest, visit their web site:  
<https://www.samsung.com/us/solvefortomorrow/>

For more information about Comstock STEM Academy, visit our web site:  
<http://www.ComstockPS.org/STEM>

To make arrangements for further interviews, reach out to Chris Chopp, Principal of the Comstock STEM Academy, by e-mail at [ChoppC@ComstockPS.org](mailto:ChoppC@ComstockPS.org).

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