

# COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Jeffrey J. Thoenes, Superintendent  
ThoenesJ@ComstockPS.org



## *Student's idea earns \$15,000 in classroom technology for Comstock STEM Academy in back-to-back years!*

**PRESS RELEASE - Kalamazoo, MI - January 8, 2020**

For the second time in two years, an idea submitted by students at Comstock STEM Academy has been selected as a state winner in Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow contest. This year's submission has been chosen as the sole representative for the state of Michigan, and earns **\$15,000** 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."

Makenna and her team will work over the next month to submit a 3 minute video about their idea. If selected to advance to the next stage of the contest, the school would earn a \$50,000 prize package!

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).

3010 Gull Road | Kalamazoo, MI 49048 | 269-250-8907 | 269-250-8908 fax

