



Building a Global Community at Ashford School

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We build a global community through STEM. For several years, I have coached our district's underwater robotics team. My students build remotely operated underwater vehicles (ROVs) which they race through obstacle courses at the bottom of a pool. It is a lot of fun and a great way to teach STEM skills but the students couldn't connect the experience to how science impacts our world. So, after my FFT Fellowship, I redesigned the experience so that students would design their robots to solve biodiversity issues. To make the project even more global, we connected our students to students in Bermuda. Together we designed underwater robots to collect data on invasive lionfish in Bermuda. The students shared their ideas and prototypes with each other through short, informal videos on Flipgrid.com. In June, we took some of our students to Bermuda to collaborate with our partner school and to start using their underwater robots to collect data. This Spring, a colleague and I are taking another group of students (at no cost to the students thanks to grant funding), to Bermuda to take their collaboration with from virtual to global. Now, not only are they learning STEM skills, they are also learning how to communicate and collaborate globally.

Resources

Interactive map of our global STEM partnership: <https://ashford-school.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=6748b05b33fd416284ba37e7e2226074>

Sample of a video that our students shared with their partners in Bermuda while they were still working on prototypes:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OGWP70oV9oJ1Kljq_jAPNVU5N8SeF1vb/view?usp=sharing

Student directions for the collaboration between schools in Bermuda:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JH5i2-4eXIKQKCidMOP-3BZNSnW9Y9p4xLq3lnD-oaQ/edit?usp=sharing>