Dear Principal X:

I am writing to inform you of the first annual Congressional Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Academic Competition, "The House STEM App Challenge." This new competition is designed to engage student's creativity and encourage their participation in STEM education fields. This competition is a nationwide event that allows students from across the country to compete by creating and exhibiting their software application, or "app," for mobile, tablet, or computer devices on a platform of their choice.

I am hosting The House STEM App Challenge for Virginia's Ninth Congressional District. High school students (grades 9 – 12) residing or attending school in the Ninth Congressional District are invited to participate in this competition. Students entering the competition must submit their entry online at www.challengepost.com by 11:59 p.m. April 30th. To enter the competition students will complete the following steps:

1) Create an account at www.challengepost.com
2) Register for the competition at http://studentappchallenge.house.gov/
3) Submit entry at www.challengepost.com which will include a description of the app, screen shots of the app, and a YouTube video demo in which the student explains the app and what he or she learned through the competition process.

All submitted apps will be evaluated by a panel of impartial individuals within the academic and STEM fields from the Ninth District. Submitted apps will be evaluated based on creativity, innovativeness, technical difficulty, and conformity to House regulations. The winning student's app will be featured on the U.S. House of Representatives' website (www.House.gov), as well as on display in a U.S. Capitol exhibit. The winning students, schools, and teachers will be notified and sent additional instructions after all submitted works have been evaluated.

Dr. Arthur Carter, the Associate Dean of the College of Science and Technology at Radford University, and Dr. Nicholas Polys, a computer science professor at Virginia Tech, have graciously offered to act as advisors to students throughout the competition. In addition to seeking guidance from their teacher, students may contact these advisors at advisor.va09stem@gmail.com.

I encourage you to pass this information on to your computer science teacher or the appropriate faculty member. Please note that the additional requirements enclosed with this letter must be followed in order for the submission to be considered. No exceptions will be made. Additional details on The House STEM App Challenge will be announced in the coming weeks and provided on my website at: http://morgangriffith.house.gov.

I look forward to seeing your students' apps. If you have any questions related to the competition, please contact James Forester of my staff at (202) 225-3861 or by email at james.forester@mail.house.gov. I remain

Sincerely yours,

H. MORGAN GRIFFITH
Member of Congress

Enclosure