

Poe Middle School

Annandale, Virginia

6th- 8th Grade Students

1,600+ Students Served



"Among a pilot group of 18 eighth grade girls who engaged in the Thinkabit Lab Signature Experience at Poe, half applied to high school programs in STEM or STEM +Arts (STEAM). It's been amazing to follow them as they've grown, seeing them develop interests from medicine to automotive."

Jessica Acuna, 6th Grade Science Teacher
Poe Middle School

For more information about the Thinkabit Lab program, please email:

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[@QualcommforGood](https://twitter.com/QualcommforGood)

Poe Middle School is a Title 1 school in the 10th largest school district in the country, Fairfax County Public Schools. The Qualcomm® Thinkabit Lab™ at Poe primarily serves sixth graders who participate in the Thinkabit Lab Signature Experience throughout one quarter, before engaging in the Tech for Good project.

Guest speakers are invited to participate in the Thinkabit Lab Signature Experience at the start of a unit. Speakers including the former head of NASA, a representative from National Geographic and others inspire students to create Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) projects based on finding solutions to a global issue, like access to clean water. The student teams work on their projects, practice mock presentations and eventually present to an audience that includes their teacher, administrators and the returning guest speaker, who provides feedback.

In the second year, the number of students who wanted to meet a "real life" person in the Thinkabit Lab was overwhelming. The experience gives students a rare chance to express themselves in person vs. on screen. It helps them learn to be accountable and take pride in their accomplishments. Teachers have said they can see a difference in once-shy students, as well.



Kaleia, who attends Annandale High School, was among the pilot group of students who engaged in the Thinkabit Lab Signature Experience at Poe Middle School. In 2019, she was selected to attend The Hill's Diversity Matters Summit in Washington, DC for a panel conversation with Qualcomm Senior Vice President of Engineering, Susie Armstrong and Steve Clemmons, Editor-at-Large for The Hill.

About Thinkabit Lab

As a company of inventors, Qualcomm cares deeply about STEM. Through the Thinkabit Lab program, students can explore engineering and non-engineering careers and engage in fun and unique hands-on STEM activities. The goal is to:

- Show students from all cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds that they can be part of inventing the wireless world of the future, and
- Encourage them to embrace the opportunity to tackle global challenges and make a difference as the workforce of tomorrow.



The Thinkabit Lab program is facilitated by Qualcomm's Corporate Responsibility team, Qualcomm for Good.