

## State Treasurer Deb Goldberg visits Minuteman STEM camp



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State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg tests her lung capacity during a tour of the Girls in STEM Summer Exploratory Program Aug. 5 at Minuteman Regional High School. Wicked Local Staff Photo/David Gordon

State Treasurer Deb Goldberg spent part of Aug. 5 observing and working with sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders and the projects they created during the Girls in STEM Summer Exploratory program at Minuteman Regional High School.

Goldberg participated in exploratory program hosted by the high school students the [Girls in STEM Club](#).

Sarah Ard, co-adviser of the club and a horticulture and landscaping technology teacher at Minuteman, could tell the visit was meaningful for the girls.

“It validates what they’re doing,” Ard said. “Speaking as a woman from a high-ranking position means a lot.”

Girls in STEM focuses on mentoring young women interested in pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math-related fields. The summer camps allows the high school girls who are mentored by professional women during the school year to mentor sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students.

During the summer program, the girls build experiments and offer workshops engaging a range of skills in STEM-related activities. This is the second camp created by the club. The first took place during February vacation.

The camp held four workshops focusing on math, science, engineering and mathematics. Each of the students moved to another subject each day, and designed all of the experiments that they worked on.

“Being interested in STEM shows the girls that they have a lot in common,” club vice president Alicia Benway said in her welcoming to Goldberg.

Goldberg and Minuteman Superintendent of Schools Edward Bouquillon measured their lung capacity using a machine created by the students. Using water displacement, the students were able to convert measurements on the machine to determine how much air Goldberg’s and Bouquillon’s lungs each held.

Goldberg participated in a demonstration dropping dish soap into a petri dish of milk, showing how soap dissolves fats. Goldberg compared the designs she made with other participants.

“Mine looks like ‘Starry Night’,” one student said.

“I did better in this than I did in breathing,” Goldberg said, referring to her milk-soap creation.

Goldberg also listened to a student explain Visual Basic, a programming language typically taught to beginner programmers, in the technology workshop and watched students construct Rube Goldberg machines in the engineering workshop.

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