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**Contact:** Richard Banden, Marketing Director

**Phone:** (773) 585-6888

**Email:** [rbanden@stsymphorosaschool.org](mailto:rbanden@stsymphorosaschool.org)

## **STEM FIELD TRIP FOR SEVENTH GRADERS**

*St. Symphorosa students get a unique learning experience*

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Seventh graders at St. Symphorosa recently had the opportunity to take part in a field trip that gave them insight and first-hand experience in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

This field trip was in partnership with the Simpson Querrey Institute at Northwestern University and the Shilatifard Lab. The goal of this trip was to inspire young students to consider studying one of the fields of science, technology, engineering or math. During the trip, lab members, grad students, technicians, bioinformaticians, graphic designers, postdoctoral fellows, and professors shared their stories about where they were in seventh grade and their path to where they are now. They stressed that it is possible to achieve great things with hard work and determination at any level.

The students rotated through stations which included looking at protein gels, DNA, next generation sequencing and microscopy, and more. The field trip concluded with a group lunch at Gino's East, with students sitting together with the lab members, Dr. Shilatifard and Kimberly Querrey.

“This field trip took us to the epigenetics lab at Northwestern University. We met professors, doctors and graduate students from all over the world and they gave us a tour of the lab,” said St. Syms teacher Chris Garza. “The seventh graders were impressed by the cutting edge work these scientists are doing in cancer research and genetics.”

Seventh graders at St. Symphorosa were eager to share their thoughts as well. “I am beyond grateful that you chose my class to see all the amazing things there and the current science and technology,” said seventh grader Amelia Lechuga. Some students such as Jack Jania took particular interest in specific scientific studies. “I enjoyed the microscope, the animation, and the coding part of the trip. I was really interested in the cancer cells and how they looked.”

The field trip was an astounding success and students and staff from St. Symphorosa look forward to opportunities like this in the future.

*(St. Symphorosa is the Parish School for Two Holy Martyrs and is located in the Clearing neighborhood of Chicago since 1926.)*

If you would like more information about St. Symphorosa School, please call 773-585-6888 or check out our website [www.stsymsschool.org](http://www.stsymsschool.org)