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Ypsilanti Community Schools get visit from Verizon, as students and teachers join the national Verizon Innovative Learning Schools Program

Ypsilanti – Verizon Communications Inc., the broadband and telecommunications provider, is partnering with two Ypsilanti Community Schools in an unprecedented 1:1, student: tablet match as part of Verizon Innovative Learning Schools (VILS) program. 180 students in grades 6-8 at Washtenaw International Middle School (WIMA), 510 Emerick Street, will pick up their new Samsung Galaxy Tab S tablet for use at school and at home, during the rollout celebration on Tuesday, September 15th from 4-7 pm. Nearly 600 students at Ypsilanti Community Middle School (YCMS) will receive their tablets at an event in mid-October.

Digital Promise and Verizon Innovative Learning Schools facts:

- This school year, WIMA and YCMS are 2 of 13 new schools to join the VILS Program, now operating in 32 schools nationwide and reaching 15,838 students and 556 teachers across the country.
- Digital Promise and Verizon Innovative Learning Schools are working to close the digital learning gap as part of the White House ConnectED initiative by offering students always-available access to learning technology and Internet connectivity.

In addition to students receiving tablets, the event will feature:

- Opportunities to hear firsthand from teachers, administrators and parents on why hands-on learning experiences using technology - and as early as middle school - are so important to academic achievement and lifelong success.
- See the students and teachers in action as they demonstrate how technology will be used in classrooms this year.

WHY: According to Pew Research, roughly one-third (31.4%) of households whose incomes fall below \$50,000 and with children ages 6 to 17 do not have a high-speed internet connection at home. This lack of access can put low income students at a learning disadvantage.

About WIMA: Washtenaw International Middle Academy takes a holistic, world view approach to learning through critical thinking, collaboration and inquiry. As the name implies, international standards are incorporated and course offerings include foreign languages, culture studies, and the State Common Core Standards. Students who are self-starters and ambitious will thrive in this environment.

About YCMS: The YCS middle school philosophy is centered around: Trust, Respect, Responsibility Instruction at YCMS is based on best practices pedagogy. In our positive and safe, student-centered environment, all voices are honored. Problem solving, innovative thinking and creativity are integrated into all facets of our school community. We are committed providing the supports and opportunities for all students to be successful.

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The launch of Verizon Innovative Learning Schools program will take place at Washtenaw International Middle Academy, 510 Emerick Street in Ypsilanti, Tuesday, September 15th, 2015 from 4-7 pm. For more information and event photos, please contact Yen Azzaro, Communications Coordinator at yazzaro4@ycschools.us or 312-415-0431

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