

MARY IMMACULATE CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Photos submitted by LARRY YOUNG

Jeff and John Dodson of Coppell (from left) look on as Mary Young of Coppell and Alex Messer of Irving demonstrate how temperature sensors feed data to the iPads.

Students, families test out new science lab

SUBMITTED STORY

Mary Immaculate Catholic School presented the St. Ann Science Lab and Art Center during a Blessing and Open House on Oct. 5.

The new center is the result of a \$250,000, three-month renovation that was supported financially through \$77,500 in grants from four foundations, a \$50,000 contribution from St. Ann Catholic Church in Coppell and fundraising at the school during the 2011-12 school year.

The renovation highlights a growing relationship between Mary Immaculate School and St. Ann Church, where about 28 percent of current school families attend services.

The dual-purpose, room renovation includes a \$30,000 technology grant from the Catholic Foundation that will enhance technology for the fine arts elective plus will stimulate curiosity and scientific inquiry in the middle school science classes by allowing students to set up and analyze complex experiments. A small room for a donated industrial Paragon kiln — which can be used both for ceramics in the art classes and for growing cultures for science labs — was included in the renovation.

A \$35,000 grant from the Kenedy Memorial Foundation and a \$2,500 grant from the Darling Foundation contributed toward construction costs. A \$10,000 grant from the Harold Sim-



Hallie Tomlinson of Coppell demonstrates a sensor that feeds wind speed data to the iPad.

mons Foundation assisted with the purchase of science equipment.

The Blessing and Open House was hosted by the Rev. Michael Forge, pastor of Mary Immaculate Church; and Matthew J. Krause, Mary Immaculate School principal. Guests included Monsignor Henry Petter, pastor of St. Ann Parish; Michael George of The Catholic Foundation and other major donors.

Rosemary Martinez submitted information for this story and contributes to neighborsgo on behalf of Mary Immaculate Catholic School.



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