



TECHie Club Overview and Evaluation Summary

FY 2009-2010



“TECH CORPS is doing a truly amazing job to educate and excite our youth about technology. I was very surprised when I attended the TECHie Club at Clinton Elementary to see the students so enthused to be studying technology topics in an after school venue. These kids are tackling topics in elementary school that many of us who work in the field never got the chance to experience until high school or college!!”

- Angelo Mazzocco, Chief Information Officer, Progressive Medical

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Overview

TECHIE Club is an exciting new program developed by TECH CORPS Ohio with support from the American Electric Power Foundation. This program is designed to introduce elementary students to technology and all its possibilities.

TECHIE Club includes hands-on, interactive activities tied directly to national technology standards for the 3rd-5th grades and focuses on the fundamentals of Computer Programming, Robotics, Web Development and Digital Media. And like all TECH CORPS programs, is lead by a team of tech-savvy volunteers from the community.

TECHIE Club is not a “computer literacy” program but instead a program that uses technology to educate, excite and empower students. The over-arching goal of TECHIE Club is to introduce students to knowledge, concepts, and skills that are necessary for success in today’s classroom and tomorrow’s workplace.

TECHIE Club offers students:

- **Technology and 21st century skills;**
- **A safe and supportive environment to elevate their confidence with technology;**
- **A new awareness of technology and other STEM-related careers; and**
- **Connections with role models employed in technology intensive fields.**

TECHIE Clubs are comprised of up to 20 students and typically meet weekly for 60-90 minutes throughout the school year. Schools designate a Site Coordinator to manage students and assist volunteers. TECH CORPS staff trains teams of tech-savvy volunteers to use the TECHIE Club Implementation Guide and Lessons to introduce students to computing topics.

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2009-2010 highlights

- 10 TECHie Clubs elementary schools in Columbus and Cincinnati
- 213 elementary students
- 32 tech-savvy volunteers
- 1,000+ volunteer hours

4 Cincinnati Public Elementary Schools; 4 Columbus City Schools and 2 Communities-in-Schools after school programs

Student Demographic Data:

Grade:

21% 3rd graders

46% 4th graders

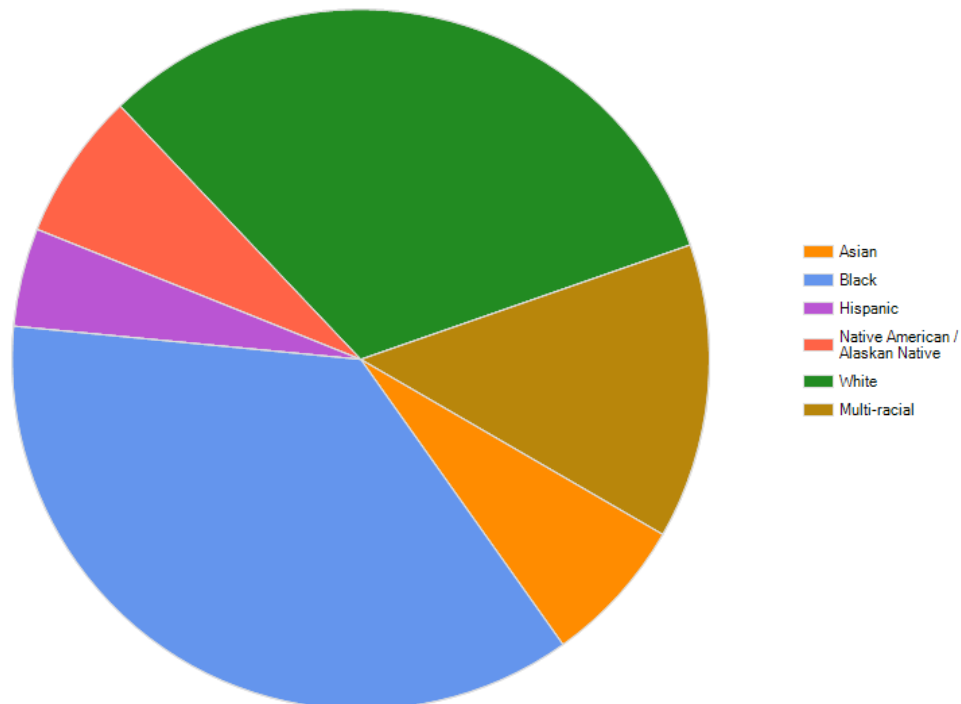
33% 5th graders

Gender:

48% Female

52% Male

Student Ethnicity:



Student Pre and Post Surveys:

Students participating in TECHie Club are asked to complete a Pre-Test and Attitude Survey before the Club gets underway. Tests measure students' technology skill level and their knowledge of technology-related careers. The Attitude Survey gauges their confidence in using technology and their opinions about the technology industry. At the end of the program, students are given a Post-Test and Survey. Results will indicate the degree to which their skills, confidence, and attitudes have grown as a result of the program.

Summary:

| % of students who AGREED with the following statements: | Pre Survey | Post Survey |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| I know a lot about computers | 36% | 65.9% |
| Programming is easy | 16.3% | 26.2% |
| Robots are easy to build | 11.6% | 52.3% |
| Computer jobs are exciting | 58.1% | 61.4% |

Year End Program Evaluation:

The % of students who said TECHie Club helped them feel more:

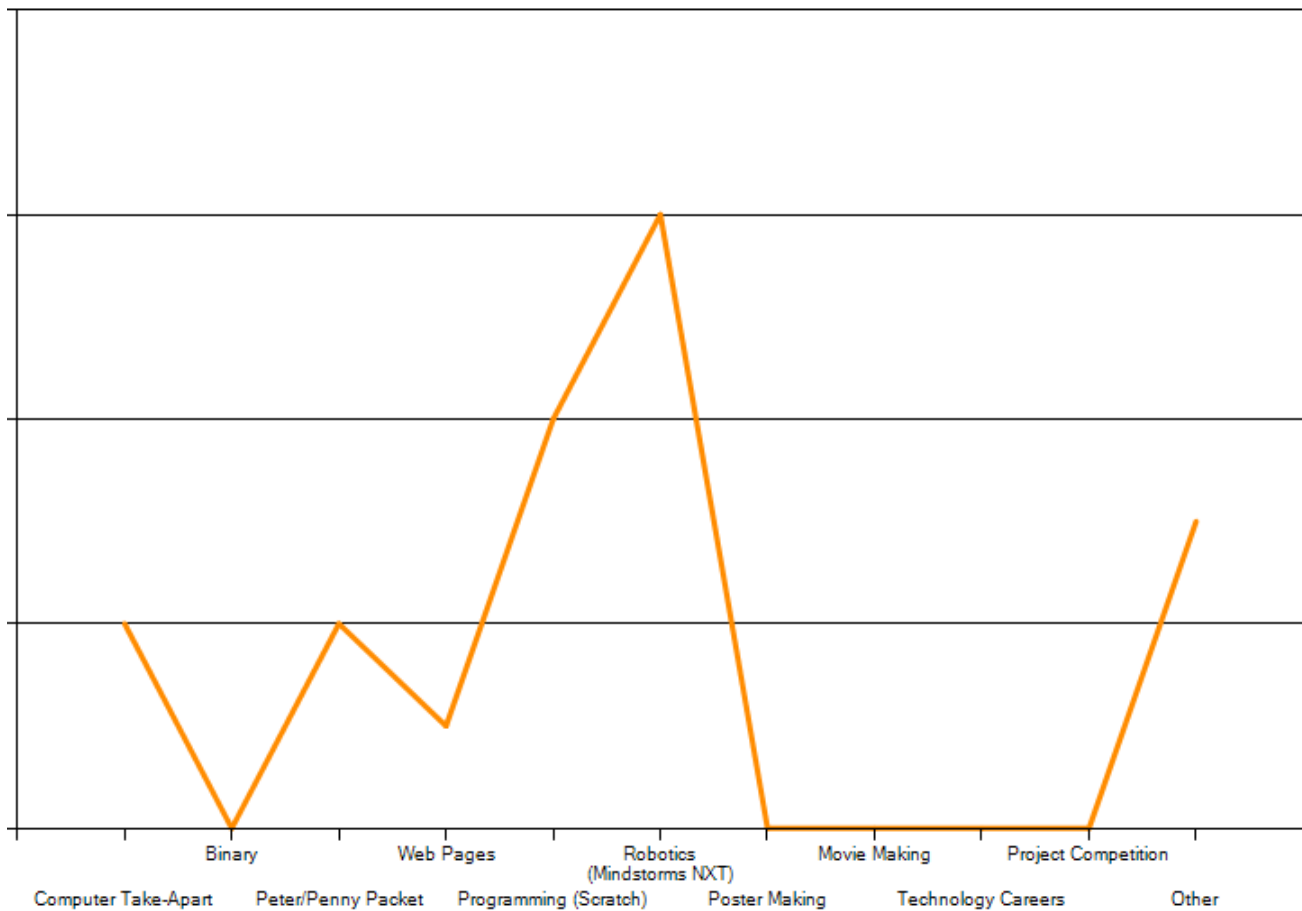
- confident knowing how the computers work - 66.7%
- aware of technology careers - 34%
- excited about programming - 23%
- excited about engineering - 17%

89% of students said they would recommend TECHie Club to their friends

97% of students said they would want to participate in TECHie Club next year

Year End Program Evaluation (Student):

What was your favorite activity?



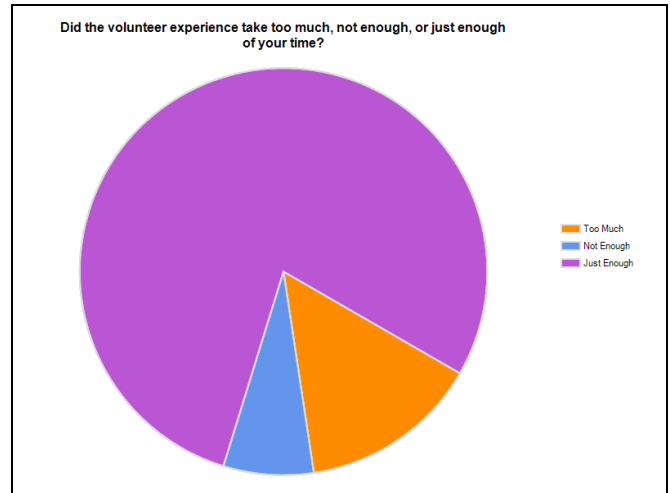
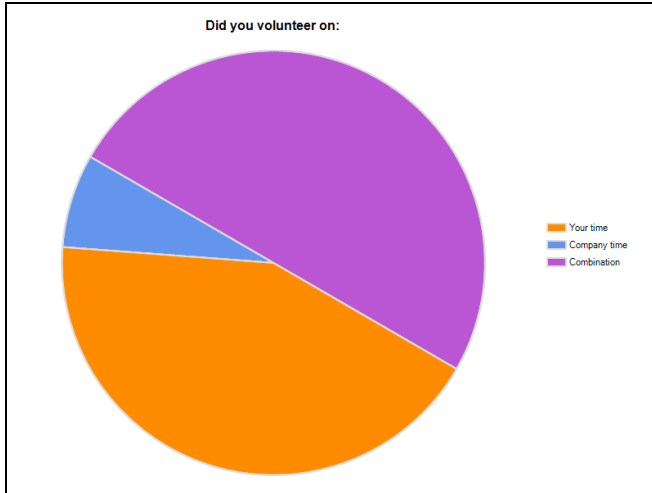
What do you think about the TECH CORPS volunteers you worked with? What can you tell me about any of them?

- they are the best volunteers ever. I like Ms. Angie because she is fun.
- I think they were funny and smart. I can tell you that they were like family to each other
- They were very nice!!!! Ms. Eva was really fun to work with, Ms. Deborah was really helpful
- I can tell you that they were the best volunteers that girl techie club could have!
- They were great when teaching about robots
- I think that my TECH CORPS volunteer explained things nicely
- I think Wesley is a nerd but cool
- They were nice and fun I can tell that they like telling us info about computers
- they gave a lot of ideas and support
- I don't know
- I think they are nice

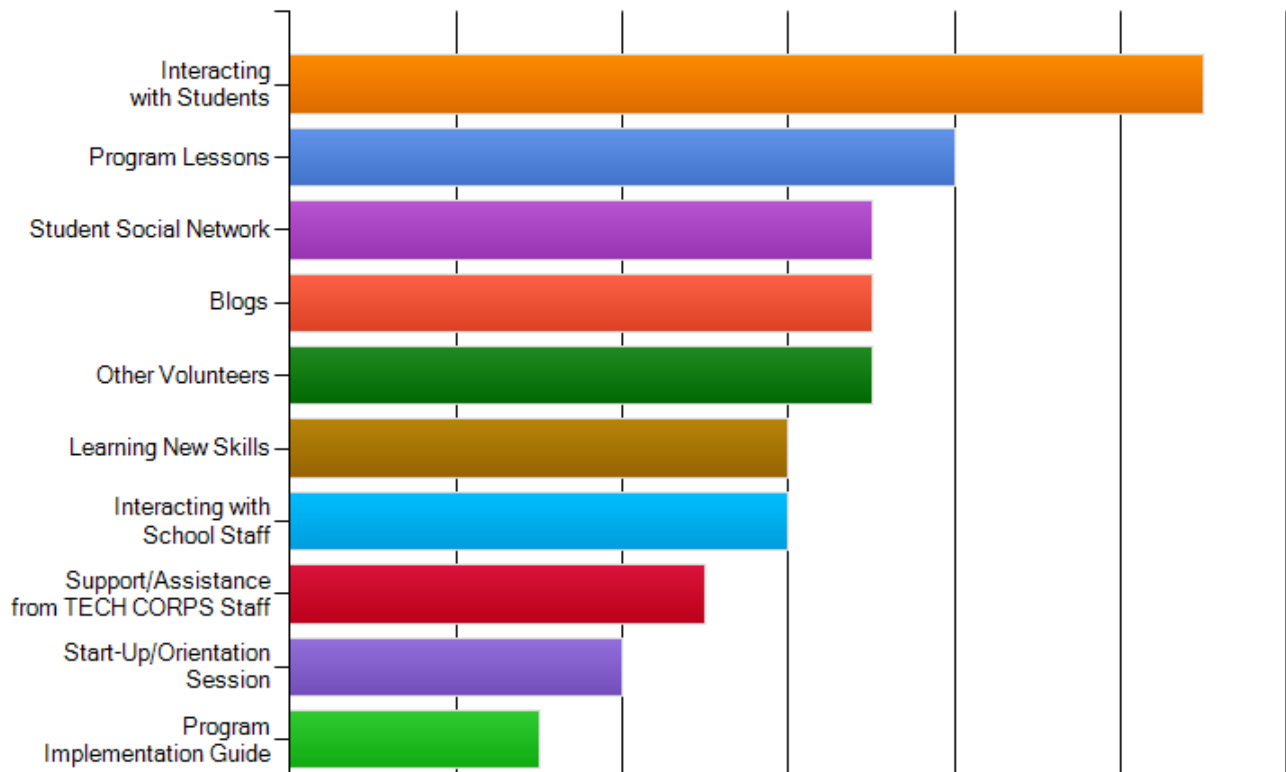
Volunteer Year End Evaluation Summary:

Volunteer Experience:

86% of volunteers said the volunteer experience either “Met” or “Exceeded” their expectations



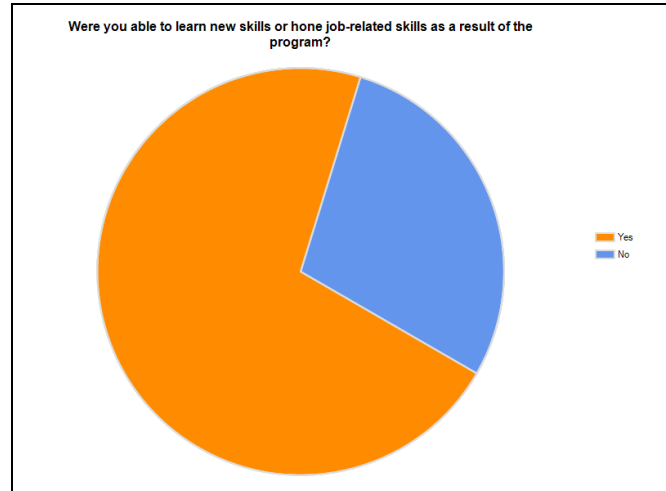
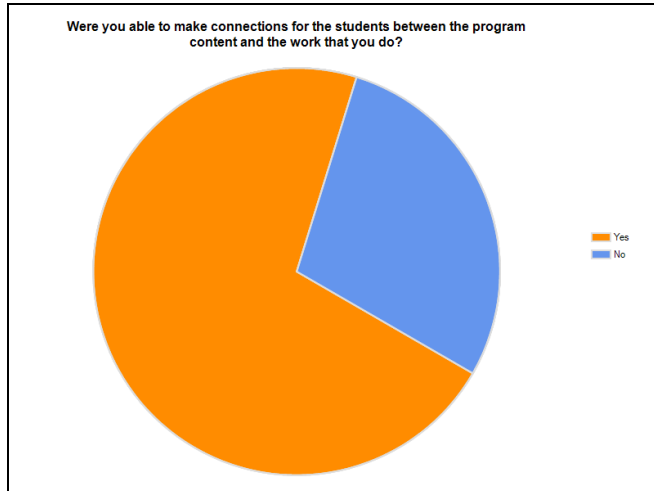
What were the **STRENGTHS** of the TECH CORPS program (please check ALL that apply)?



Year End Program Evaluation (Volunteer):

As it pertains to the implementation of the program, what was most challenging for you?

- In the beginning, the biggest challenge was knowing what to expect. There was considerable information with the lesson plans which guided us through it. After a few lessons, we knew to take the lessons as guidelines and modify them as needed to fit the interests of the students.
- Learning to share the responsibility for the program with new volunteers and not taking on too much of the leadership.
- Finding the time to walkthrough lessons before sessions with the students.
- Making sure the equipment was working properly
- I enjoyed learning the new tools, but I was lacking in the technology skills for supporting the laptop issues that kept occurring.
- Getting up to speed on the lessons without necessarily knowing how well/quickly the students would get through everything and trying to make sure I could be as effective as possible.
- The school's equipment was dated and often did not function.



What was the most rewarding aspect of the TECH CORPS experience?

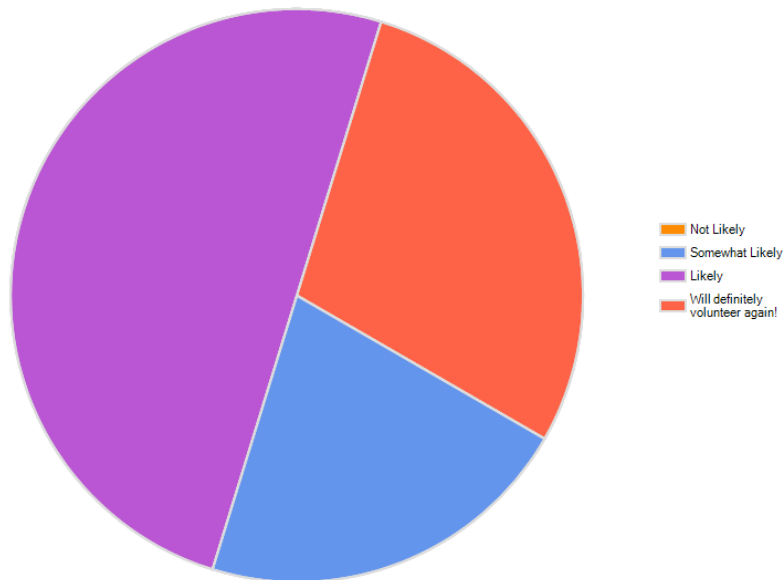
- I loved the working with the students on new technologies and it was a great de-stressor. After a long day at work, being in the classroom allowed me to have fun and relax.
- Being part of an excellent program which is one of its kind. The kids were great and we formed good relationships with them. There is so much untapped talent in the kids and it was very rewarding to bring it out in them and learn more about them each class. Another rewarding experience was meeting the talented teachers and other volunteers in the club. I made a lasting relationship with a fellow volunteer which I will cherish.
- Seeing the progress in the girls
- Interacting with the students and getting hands on with different technology -- I never had the opportunity to work with robotics or dissect a computer.
- I thought we helped some kids that really needed it.
- Working with the students. (Need I say more?)
- I definitely felt like this program was important to several of the kids, not just in the sense that they enjoyed it, but also that I felt like it exposed them to some new interests and possibilities in life.

Year End Program Evaluation (Volunteer):

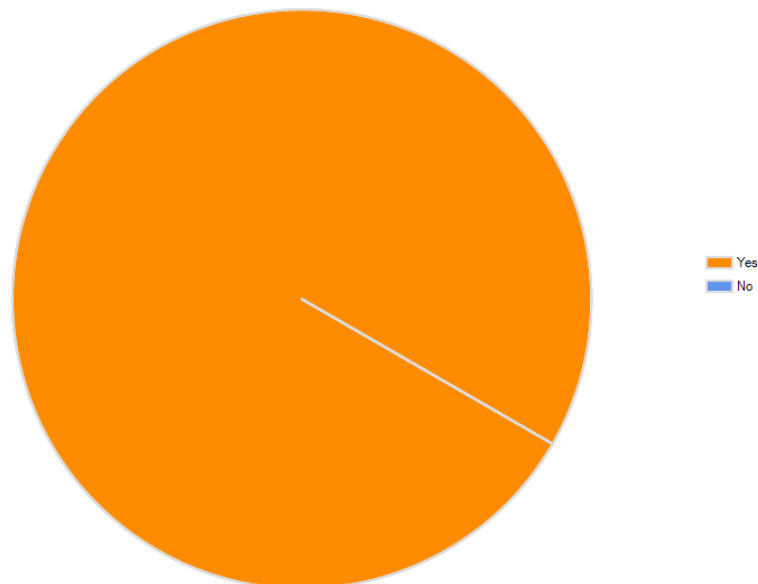
What recommendations do you have for improving the program or overall experience?

- Expand number of lessons for focus robotics, Scratch.
- Establish MeetUp Group sessions periodically to demo/review technologies used in lessons with the students.
- More interaction across schools
- Let the volunteers get together to explore the materials as a group in advance.
- I really liked the program materials. They were so good I think I got a false sense of security going into the program. Now having been through it once, I still think the materials are great - but we need to do a better job at planning.
- More volunteer training.

How likely are you to volunteer with TECH CORPS in the future:



Would you recommend TECH CORPS to other volunteers?

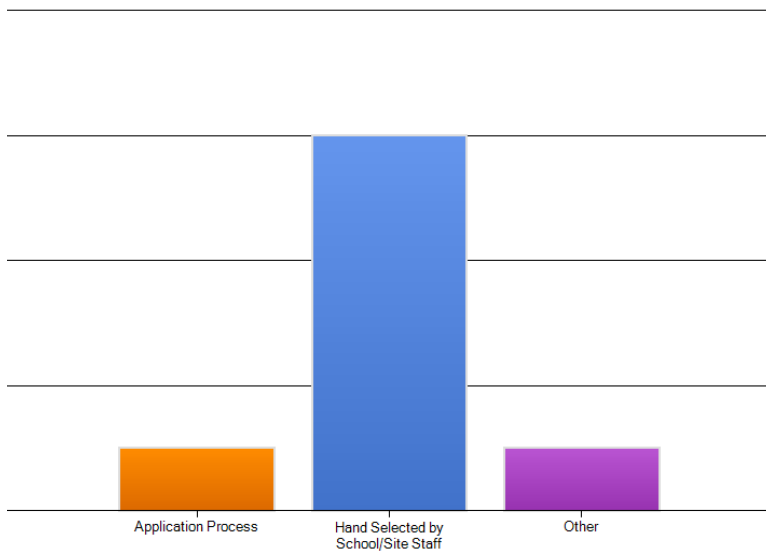


Site Coordinator Program Impact Summary:

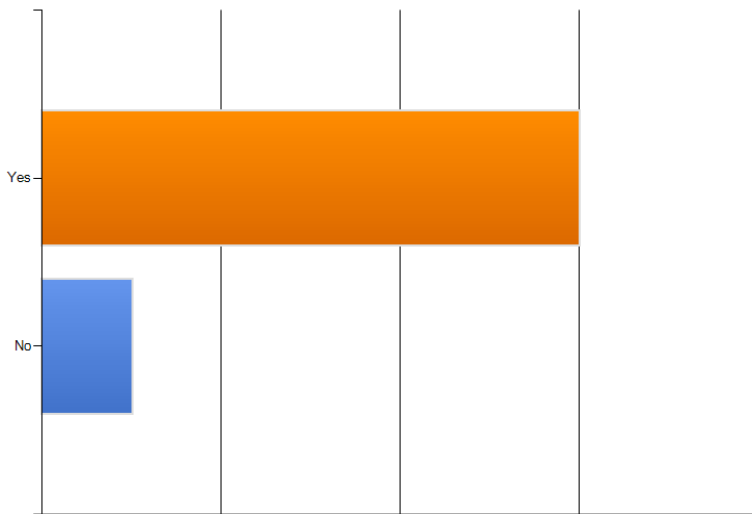
TECHIE Club Meetings:

- 71% of the Clubs held between 26-30 meetings.
- 86% of the Clubs met for 90 minutes a session.
- 81% of the students that enrolled in the program, COMPLETED the program

How were students selected for participation in the program?



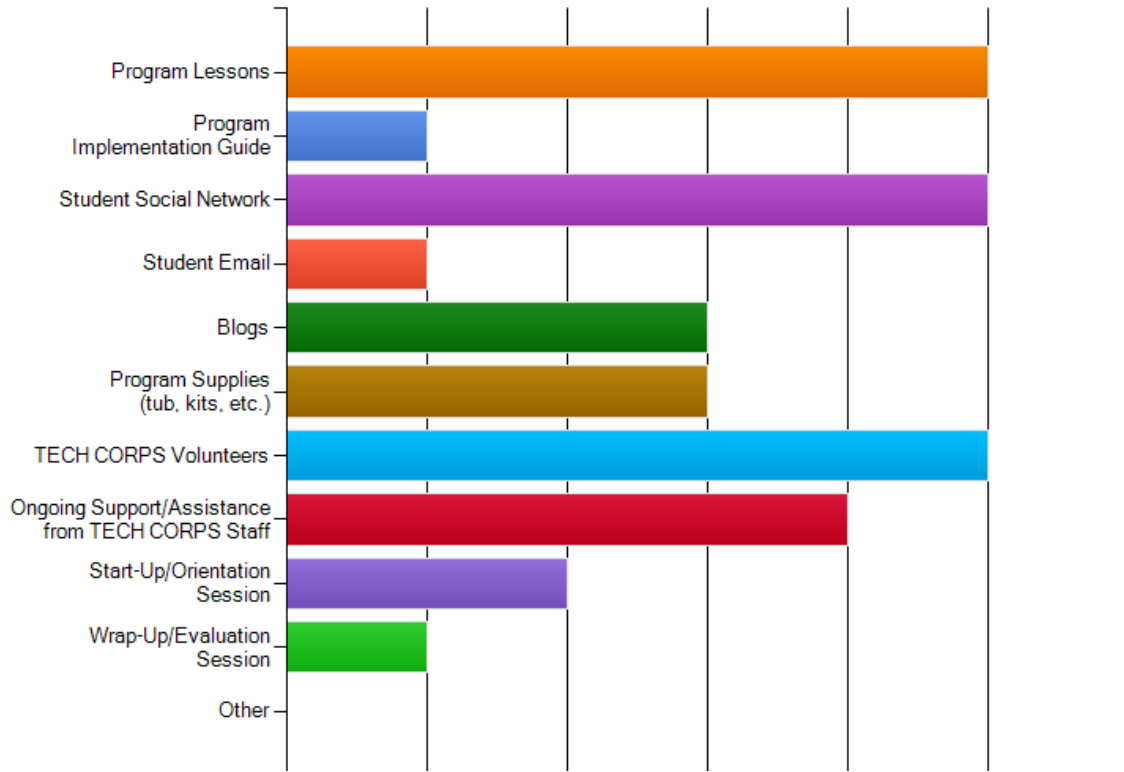
Did you have more students who wanted to participate in the program?



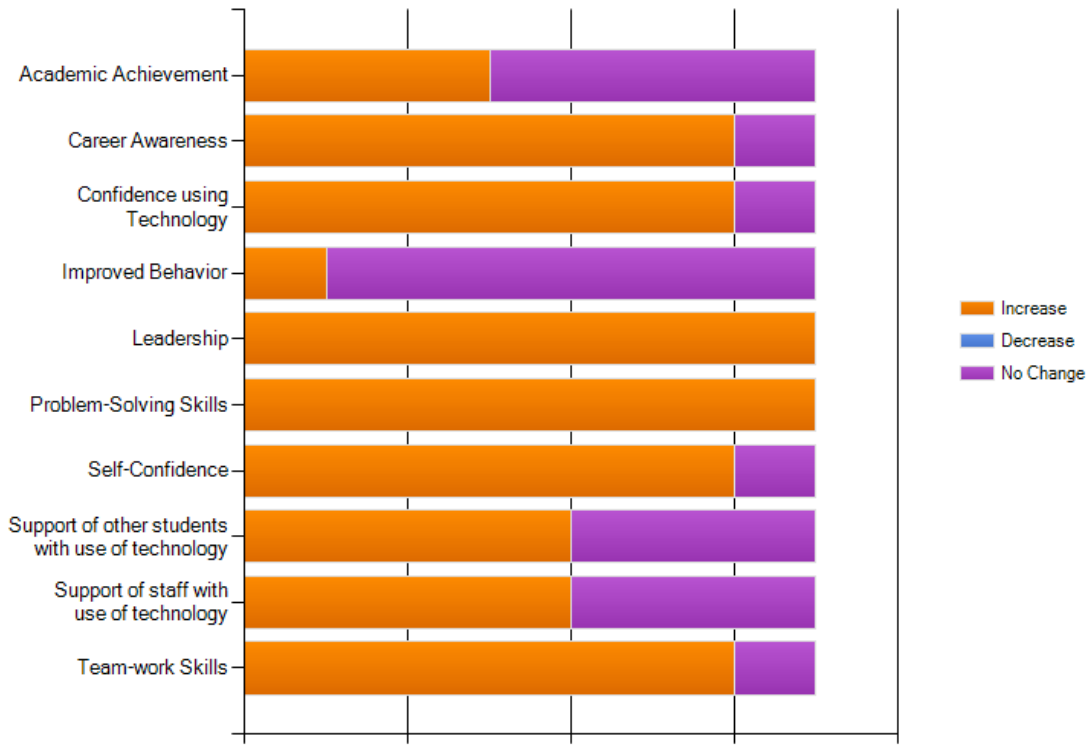
- 100% of Site Coordinators stated the TECH CORPS Volunteers had a positive impact on the students in the program?
- 100% of Site Coordinators stated they were satisfied with the volunteer's interpersonal and technical skills
- 43% of Site Coordinators stated the program "Greatly Exceeded" their expectations
- Only 14% of Site Coordinators stated the subject matter covered in the program is also covered in their school
- 85% of Site Coordinators stated they were able to learn new skills or hone job-related skills as a result of the program

Program Impact (Site Coordinator):

What were the STRENGTHS of the TECH CORPS program (please check ALL that apply)?



Based on your observations, please indicate the changes you witnessed from students in the TECH CORPS program.



Program Impact (Site Coordinator):

Please give one or more specific quantitative or qualitative statements about changes that occurred with students because of the program:

- The Techie Club members' self-confidence levels increased due to providing technical support to their peers and staff members.
- We had some great teamwork especially when it came time to working on the projects for TechNight. It has been such a positive experience for the kids, has given them challenges in the technology field that our students don't get during the academic day at school. I hope to see this program expand.
- I saw two boys grow in their enthusiasm, having a lot more confidence with trying new things. For example, the more successful they were in completing one robot; they eagerly wanted to move on with the next one.
- One student, who did poorly with several of the topics, took off and was very successful in robotics.
- One of our students who has trouble socializing with classmates and is often on the fringe, in this program she worked well with another student and they made a good team.
- Many of the students gained a lot of self-confidence both using technology as well as with speaking in front of a group and problem solving.
- Students went from no experience with social networking and blogs to a very high skill level.
- The students enjoyed the new experience and learned new things and shared with parents as well as students.
- Two girls also became very engaged with learning web pages, Scratch and one of the two really enjoyed the robotics. I saw their exposure greatly enhanced and they really liked many things they did.

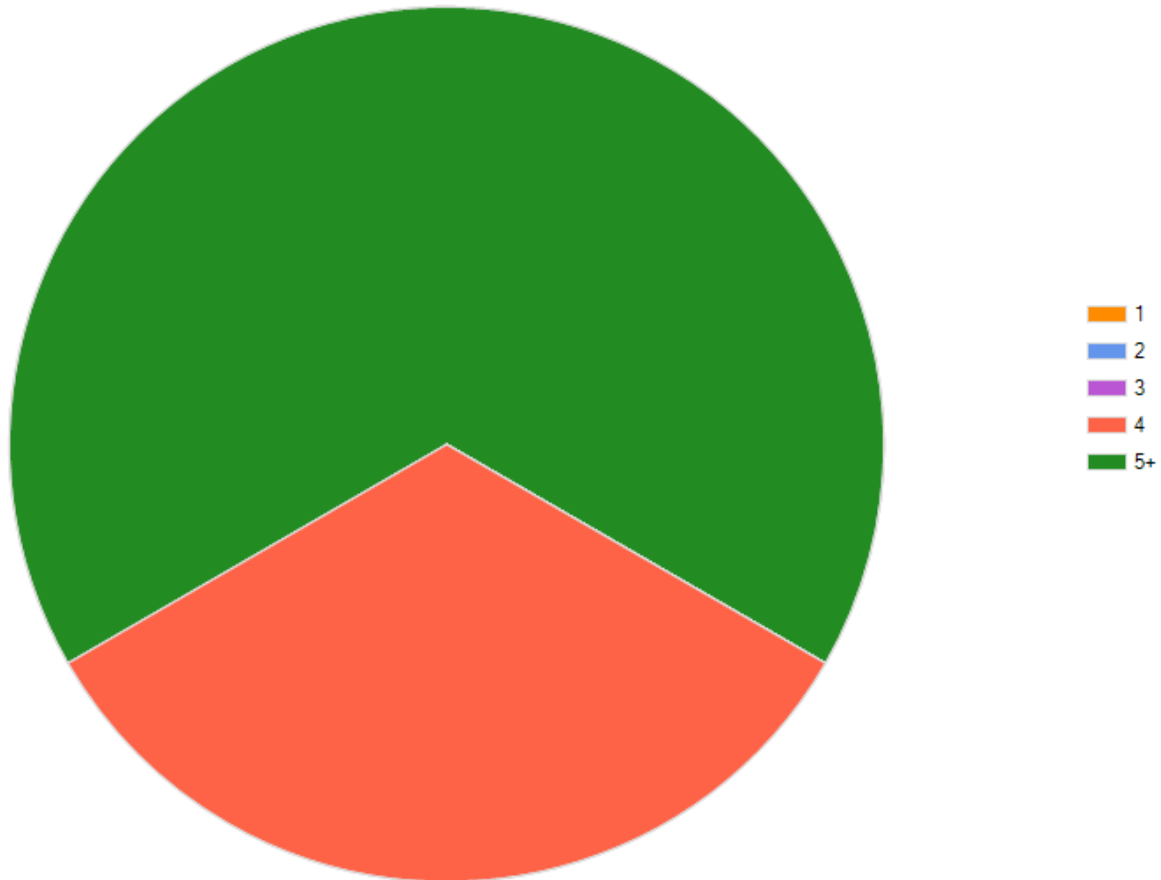
Please feel free to share any other information that you feel would be helpful for TECH CORPS staff to know:

- I believe the Tech Corps program is an excellent experience for the students and staff members alike.
- I feel this program could really help to keep our students on track and moving ahead.
- Thank you for all of the work the staff puts into the programming and delivery of the programs.
- The program staff was so supportive to our students and to our staff members. What a great experience for our students!

100% of Site Coordinators stated they would recommend this program to other schools!

Home Room Teacher Survey:

How many of your Home Room students participated in the TECHie Club program?



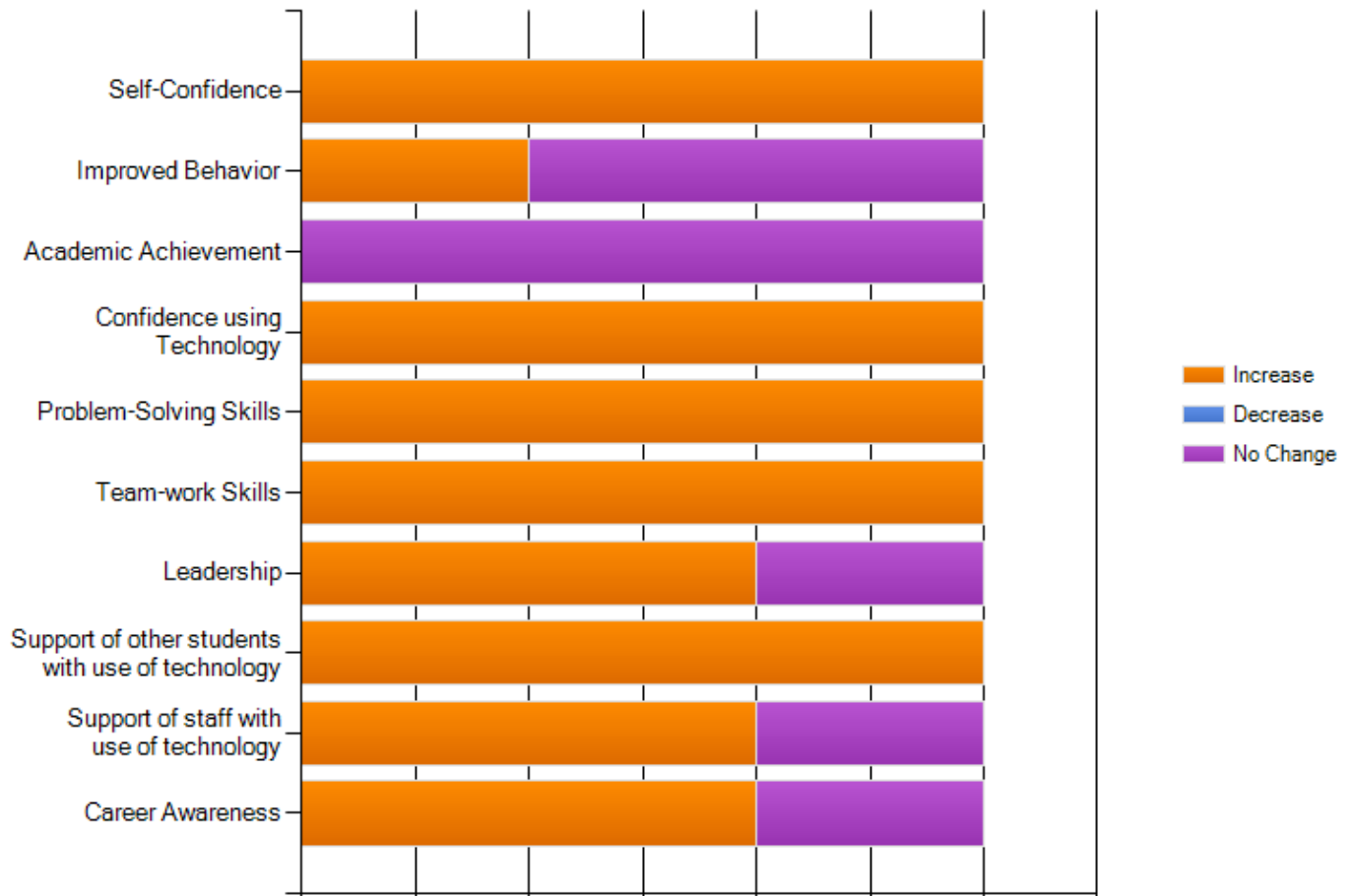
- A majority of the Home Room teachers surveyed had “Little” to “No” interaction with the TECHie Club program.
- 100% of the Home Room Teachers stated they would recommend the TECHie Club program to other schools.

How would you compare TECHie Club to other after-school programs?

- Techie Club is an excellent opportunity for all students.
- The students that were involved seemed to enjoy their Tech Club experience. This is not always true of all other after-school programs. They wanted to attend each week.
- I think tech club better prepares students for the future compared to other after school programs.

Home Room Teacher Survey:

Based on your observations, please indicate the changes you witnessed from students in the TECH CORPS program:



- **100% of Home Room teachers surveyed witnessed an “Increase” in their TECHie Club students’ self-confidence and other 21st century skills such as team-work and problem solving skills.**
- **A majority of Home Room Teachers reported that their TECHie Club students were now assisting them and other students with the use of technology in the classroom.**

TECHie Club Parent Survey:

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | No Opinion/ No Change | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|--|----------------|-------|--------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| My child enjoyed participating in this program. | 100% | | | | |
| This program helped my child to improve their technology skills. | 100% | | | | |
| This program helped my child to increase their knowledge of technology- related careers. | 100% | | | | |
| My child's confidence has improved since enrolling in the program. | 60% | 40% | | | |
| My child's leadership skills have improved since enrolling in the program. | 60% | 20% | 20% | | |
| My child's problem-solving skills have improved since enrolling in the program. | 60% | 40% | | | |
| I feel my child is safe and secure when he/she is at the program. | 100% | | | | |
| The TECH CORPS Volunteers know and care about my child and respond to his/her needs. | 100% | | | | |
| I would re-enroll my child in a TECH CORPS program, if available. | 60% | 40% | | | |

What did you like best about the TECH CORPS program?

- My child was engaged in learning new things that were challenging, mentally stimulating and fun!
- It introduced my son to technological concepts and skills that he/I were unaware he had.
- It encourages girls to be more interested in technology.
- My kids had FUN!
- The fact that they were able to be introduced to this field (technology) at such a young age.

I was pleased that my child was exposed to...

- Building robots, blogging and making movies
- The different experts in the field
- The teamwork they participated in
- Adult professionals with an expanded outlook on technology

Other comments:

- Kurt thoroughly enjoyed TECHie Club and looked forward to it each week. It gave him an outlet for his mathematical and creative talents.
- The TECH CORPS program, in my opinion, is one of the most exciting programs that my son has ever been involved in; his knowledge of robotics and computer engineering has increased three-fold. I am so incredibly amazed he was able to learn so much in just a short time.
- Thanks for all of your hard work and commitment!



techie club



TECHIE Club students visit with Franklin County Commissioners and tell them about the TECHIE Club program.

During Computer Science Awareness Week, TECHIE Club students learn about the many ways AEP uses technology from Velda Otey, Chief Information Officer, AEP.



TECHIE Club students and their families enjoy a fun night at COSI.



TECHIE Club students are exposed to technology industry leaders during the career awareness components of the program.



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