

Wissahickon Middle School Girls Who Code and Boys Who Code Clubs Receive Donation from Ambler Savings Bank



(from left) Roger Zacharia, President and CEO of Ambler Savings Bank; students from the Wissahickon Middle School Girls Who Code Club; Joann Groark, Girls Who Code Advisor (far right).

LOWER GWYNEDD — Ambler Savings Bank recently presented a check to the Wissahickon School District to help enhance Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programming. The \$5,000 donation, through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC), supported a new Wissahickon Middle School Boys Who Code and Girls Who Code Club, an after school activity for boys/girls in grades 6-8 which teaches them how to write computer code, create apps, games and websites.

“Our students really enjoyed the experience and the challenge. It was amazing to watch the girls come together as a team to plan, problem-solve, and create code to solve real-world problems,” said Joann Groark, Girls Who Code Advisor.

The demand for the new clubs was considerable. Fifteen girls participated and 30 boys this year. The students said coding activities they had done in elementary school sparked their interest in learning more at the middle school.

Previous EITC grants from Ambler Savings Bank have funded other initiatives to enhance the district’s STEM curricula and introduce computer programming opportunities to all students – an essential 21st Century skill.

“Funding 21st Century learning is vital to the future of our workforce and our industry,” said Roger Zacharia, President and CEO of Ambler Savings Bank. “These young students will become the civic and business leaders of our future.”

“The district strives to nurture our students’ natural interest in this language of the future starting at the elementary level. Our goal is to ensure that all students regardless of gender, ethnicity and socio-economic status view coding as an important and valuable skill set for a future career,” said Gary Abbamont, Assistant Superintendent.

Ambler Savings Bank is a mutually organized community bank headquartered in Ambler, and has locations in Bally, Limerick, Schwenksville and Fairview Village, as well as several continuing care retirement facilities. Learn more online at www.AmblerSavingsBank.com.