

# *Sachem Central School District at Holbrook*

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## **Sagamore Students Become Mad Scientists**

On a recent visit to the Long Island Science Center in Riverhead, 200 seventh graders from Sagamore Middle School in the Sachem School District performed chemistry experiments on powdered substances, studied the chemical and physical changes of matter, and learned that chemistry can be quite tasty!

In a lab called “Chemistry Detective,” students added liquid indicators to known powders and observed the reactions. Then, when faced with a “mystery powder,” the students used the indicators from the previous reactions to deduce the possible make-up of the unknown substance. This type of program helped the students understand how scientists identify something unknown by checking it against known items – a useful skill in science, forensics, and law.

Students also learned that matter can be changed by physical or chemical means. Through a lab called, “Mad Scientist: States of Matter,” students conducted three experiments to better understand how physical and chemical changes occur. In the first experiment, the young scientists created a “crystal garden” that started with a physical change of solid to a liquid. Within a few days, the liquid evaporated into a gas and then returned to a solid again. The second delicious experiment featured a chemical change of liquid to a semi-solid known as “phulbber,” followed by the best change – a liquid to a solid – turning milk into ice cream!

Steve Siciliano  
Principal

