



IGNITE MY FUTURE

INNOVATION STUDENT CHALLENGE

PARENT/GUARDIAN LETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I encourage you to enter your child in the 2018 Discovery Education Tata Consultancy Services Ignite Innovation Student Challenge. We know that today's students will face complicated, complex, and overwhelming problems that require creative, collaborate and incredibly adaptable solutions. But we also know that the greatest thinkers and problem solvers and scientists don't always tackle a complex problem head on. They break apart, they strip away, and they take it step by step! All of those human, thinking skills are what is at the heart of computational thinking.

Computational Thinking is formalized problem solving where we have a set of strategies that can teach a computer to solve. There are the seven computational thinking practices that we identified: Abstraction, Algorithms, Analyzing Data, Collecting Data, Decomposition, Finding Patterns, and Modeling. We refer to this as a toolkit. When students are approached with a big problem, they can often use more than one of these computational thinking strategies to solve it. It's aligned to how computer programmers solve problems with tools and technologies. Certain skills and practices appear over and over again in how we get programs to work and that's what we focus on within this challenge.

The Ignite Innovation Student Challenge is a national competition for students in grades 6 through 8 to solve the problem, "How can we improve the world with a digital solution?"

Your child could receive recognition as one of the 2018 Discovery Education Tata Consultancy Services Ignite Innovation Student Challenge winners. The winner will take home the grand prize of \$10,000 scholarship! To enter your child in the Ignite Innovation Student Challenge, simply visit the website www.IgniteMyFutureInSchool.org/StudentChallenge and follow the steps to complete the online Parental Consent Form. Then have your child create a short video or written description describing a new digital solution to be submitted by December 13th at 8PM ET.

For judging criteria and complete rules, visit www.IgniteMyFutureInSchool.org/StudentChallenge. The Discovery Education Tata Consultancy Services Ignite Innovation Student Challenge promises to be an incredible journey for young participants. I hope you consider entering your child in the 2018 competition!

Sincerely,