**Gilead Sciences - Bayside VR Project Description**

 Bayside Academy Middle School is located in San Mateo, CA. and is a public middle school with approximately 600 students. We are a Title 1 school and more than half of our students qualify for the free lunch program. We have a very diverse student population with the majority being Latino and Pacific Islander.

Gilead Sciences has provided a generous grant to build a VR lab with an emphasis on an NGSS based science curriculum. Our plan is to roll out the Virtual Reality Lab in August 2019 with 16 Oculus Quest stations that will support a class size of 32 students. Our teachers have curated a curriculum of VR content with a strong emphasis on science applications and the NGSS standards. We will be working with Stanford University’s Virtual Human Interaction Lab to optimize the learning experience for our students.

Virtual reality is immersive, engaging, and exciting, offering a way for teachers to take students to places that were never possible before. We are fortunate in having this opportunity when VR technology is blossoming with low cost VR headsets and a rapidly emerging body of educational VR apps. Students at Bayside will have an exciting year in 2019-2020. We will literally be going where “no one has gone before”.

Ed Loeswick

STEM Teacher

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