



Students from Rippowam Cisqua School pose for a group picture in front of the Coast Guard Cutter Sturgeon Bay, a 140-foot icebreaking tug home ported in Bayonne, N.J., Feb. 18, 2009.

(U.S. Coast Guard Photo/Lt. Scott Rae)

Rippowam Cisqua School Applied Physics Students Train with the Coast Guard

Press Release Courtesy of Rippowam Cisqua School

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With two toots of her whistle, the Coast Guard Cutter, STURGEON BAY, pulled out of her Hudson River slip at the Kingston piers on Wednesday, February 18, 2009. On board were fifty-four eighth graders on a mission to experience the physics of a vessel maneuvering on the Hudson River. Thanks to Lt. Scott Rae, Commanding Officer, and the crew of STURGEON BAY, it was all hands-on learning, as only the Coast Guard can provide.

The Rippowam students were grouped into 8 teams manning eight different stations while underway. Those groups included: Bridge/Bridge management, Galley/Food prep, Engineering Control Center (electrical distribution switchboard), Sound Powered Phone, Engine Room, Motor Room/Aft Steering, Auxiliary equipment spaces, and Main Deck. Every twenty minutes the teams rotated to a new station so that each student got to see the entire ship, bridge to engine room, foc's'le to fantail.

This field trip is an important part of the physics curriculum, where these young engineers look at applications of physics principles learned in the classroom. This year,



Lt. j.g. Kenneth Sauerbrunn, Executive Officer of the Sturgeon Bay, shows the students how the sound powered phone systems work aboard the ship, Feb. 18, 2009.
(Coast Guard Photo/Lt. Scott Rae)

each of the four eighth grade classes is designing a nuclear research submarine. To gain the necessary knowledge of shipboard systems, the students studied information from the internet as well as from STURGEON BAY's website. The engineering officer, Chief Warrant Officer Chris Brady also helped students prepare for the trip by sending technical information about the ships

propulsion and electrical distribution system to the school.

Charlie Duveen, who runs the physics course at the Rippowam Cisqua School in Bedford, New York, said the field trip fulfilled all of his expectations and more. "By the time my physics students went on board, they were familiar with ship terminology and the power plant systems that make this ice breaker open up the frozen Hudson for commercial traffic. But nothing we learn in the classroom can replace the experience of going on board this Coast Guard vessel underway."

Just as important as the lessons in physics are the explanations by crewmen about life on board the ship. "My students learned first hand about the training, the sacrifices and the mission of this crew," Mr. Duveen said. "It's not just about equipment. It's about how people in an organization work together as a team to accomplish that mission. And I believe, young people need to see that up close."

The Rippowam Cisqua School is a co-educational PreKindergarten through Grade Nine independent country day school, located in Bedford and Mt. Kisco, New York. For more than ninety years, it has offered an academically challenging and nurturing environment that focuses on critical thinking, individual development, and personal excellence. For more information about the course, email Charlie Duveen at charlie_duveen@rcsny.org or visit www.rcsny.org.

