

Demystifying Physics for New Brunswick Secondary Students

Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Flood the Classroom

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Motivation

- Physics outreach mostly to privileged schools
- Need is greatest in underserved communities
- New Brunswick HS teaches “Physics First”
- Show students that physics is fun, practical, and accessible



Goals

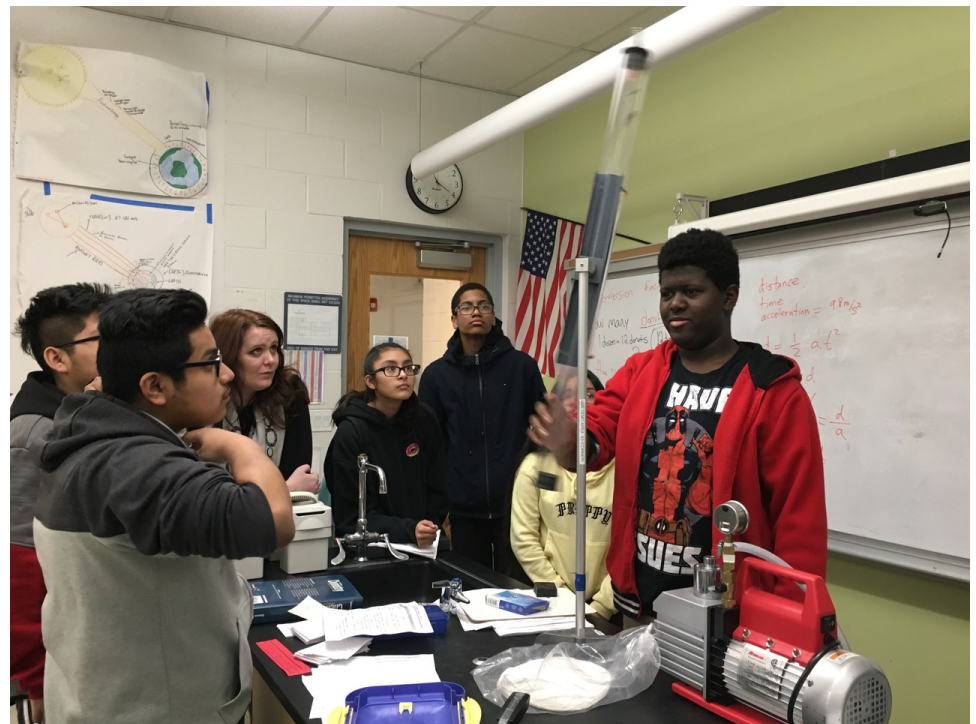
- Demystify physics
- Build students' confidence
- Recruit STEM majors
- Sustain the outreach
- Scale the outreach



Project

Nurture thru Nature (NtN) works weekly with two randomly-selected groups of 9th graders at NBHS

We visit both groups monthly to show physics demonstrations that connect directly to material they're learning in class (or are just fun)



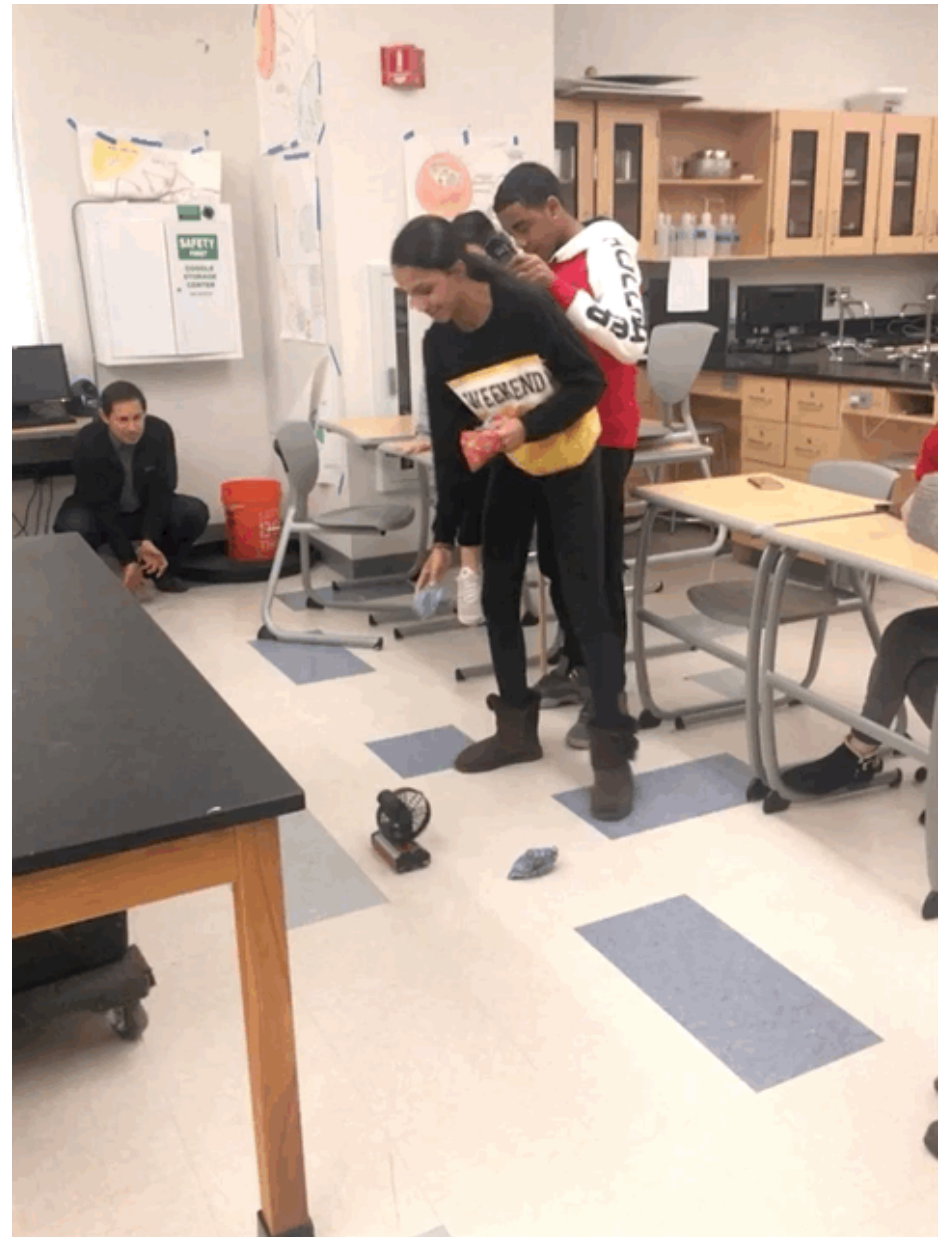
Challenges

- 9th graders
- at the end of the school day
- most of whom pretend they're not interested
- Chaos!



Status and Plans

- Monthly visits since January
- Continue through May
- Expand curriculum to cover full year in 2019-2020
- Let graduate students lead visits
- Adapt for other nearby schools



Conclusions

- Don't try to beat them – join them!
- You can't do everything
- Enjoy what you do – and do what you enjoy
- Go ahead and flood the classroom
- Stretch before you outreach!

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