The student mentorship aspect of SCHEV@ODU was warmly received by both teachers and students. Doctoral student Kara Olson of the Department of Computer Science interacted regularly with 5th grade students at James Hurst Elementary School and Churchland Academy Elementary School, both part of the Portsmouth Public Schools System in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Throughout the Spring and in to the Summer, Kara was able to work individually with over 20 students through study, review, tutoring, and fun. Some of the skills addressed were Layers of the Earth; Weather; Earth and Space; Earth's Resources; and Matter.

After the Virginia Standards of Learning tests, time is more flexible and the extra fun begins. Several hands-on labs were created and enjoyed, including H_2O Electrolysis (separating water into oxygen and hydrogen), Volcano Craft (mixing baking soda and vinegar – everyone should get to do this at least once!), and Outrageous Ooze (making a non-Newtonian fluid).

Both Volcano Craft and Outrageous Ooze were exceptional labs. Volcano Craft allowed one group of students to spontaneously (re)discover and apply the Scientific Method. The students started with water and baking soda, added a dash of dish washing liquid, and poured in the vinegar – a standard recipe. But after the initial experiment, inquiring minds wanted to know: what would happen if the vinegar were put in first? More mess and learning ensued as they continued, experimenting with the quantity and order of each ingredient.

Outrageous Ooze was a wonderful opportunity, as it was able to incorporate an entire inclusion class – much to the students' delight.

Kara enjoyed her experience and knows the teachers and students with whom she worked have benefited from SCHEV@ODU.