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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ribbon-cutting marks the launch of St. Mark's School's New STEM SmartLab

Ribbon-Cutting left to right: Sherlock Elliott, St. Mark's School Advisory Board Chair; the Rev. Jim Cook, St. Mark's Rector; Matthew Lane, City of Palm Beach Gardens Councilmember, Mark Marciano, City of Palm Beach Gardens Mayor; Deborah Strainge, St. Mark's Head of School; Alison Samarias, St. Mark's Director of Development; and Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches Ambassadors, Susan Jones, Marilyn Walter, and Doug Swan.

Palm Beach Gardens -- St. Mark's Episcopal School is proud to launch its new state-of-the-art STEM SmartLab for students at the start of the 2019-2020 school year. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Thursday, August 15, at 9 a.m. Deborah Strange, Head of School, welcomed attendees and shared her excitement with the students about all the new learning opportunities the STEM SmartLab will offer them. The Rev. Jim Cook, St. Mark's Rector, led a prayer and blessed the newly renovated facility.

The ceremony was well attended by the St. Mark's administration, faculty, board members, students and school families as well as the City of Palm Beach Gardens Mayor Mark Marciano and Councilmember Matthew Lane. Also sharing in this momentous occasion was Leigh Robertson, Regional STEM Director, and Rob Belous, Regional Sales Manager, with industry partner Creative Learning Systems. The Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches Membership Services Associate, Alexa Hoffman, and Chamber Ambassadors Susan Jones, Marilyn Walter, Doug Swan, and Shanell Foster also participated in the celebratory ribbon-cutting.

“Our goal is to provide all of our students with access to the new STEM SmartLab that encourages exploration, problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration and creativity,” said Deborah Strange, St. Mark's Head of School. “Funded through generous gifts to the annual fund and auction over the past three years, this is a long-term commitment for St. Mark's. We recognize the importance of offering STEM programs to prepare our students for jobs that do not yet exist in our rapidly changing world. We will continue to move forward in these areas to enhance our award-winning curriculum and invest in the professional development of our faculty to ensure the future success of our children in preschool through eighth grade.”

The STEM SmartLab will captivate learners in a setting where hands-on STEM projects, art, communications, and social sciences are seamlessly integrated in a powerful, engaging program. The SmartLab student-centered curriculum from Creative Learning Systems forms the foundation for students to explore a wide-range of projects and challenge levels in circuitry, computer graphics, digital communications, robotics, engineering, computer programming, 3-D modeling, and more.

“The ribbon-cutting ceremony was an opportunity to connect with our community partners and inform parents about access to innovative new tools and curriculum,” said Strange. “It signifies St. Mark’s progress towards next generation learning.” Founded in 1979, St. Mark’s School is celebrating its 40th anniversary during the 2019-2020 school year. Building on four decades of changing educational practices and innovations, St. Mark’s challenges its students, who continue to excel in all aspects of school life and are admitted to outstanding secondary schools and colleges. To discover more, visit St. Mark’s dynamic campus (www.stmarkspb.org). Tours are offered daily by appointment by calling 561-623-2624 or emailing admission@stmarkspb.org. Congratulate St. Mark’s and view more images of the ribbon-cutting on Facebook at [Facebook.com/stmarkslionspbg](https://www.facebook.com/stmarkslionspbg).

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