



BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

From robotics to geography, this middle schooler is immersed in learning

Image courtesy Laurie Doherty

LITTLE COMPTON, R.I. --

Barrington, Bristol, Burrillville, Central Falls, and so on. Rhode Island may be the smallest U.S. state, but there's certainly enough Ocean State to make memorizing every nook and cranny difficult. But **Evan Doherty** loves a challenge.

"I can name every Rhode Island city and town," Evan said. "By county, too."

The rising 7th grader developed an interest in geography at an early age, partially out of innate

childhood curiosity, and perhaps, backseat boredom.

"We drive to Florida a lot," Evan's mother, Laurie, shared.

"It's useful to know when you're driving where all the towns are," her son added.

Evan is looking forward to **further developing his knowledge** in social studies this school year at Wilbur McMahon School in Little Compton. This summer, Evan explored other subject areas at Cyber Camp, a free



free extended learning experience in partnership with Newport Public Schools, the Community College of Rhode Island, CyberPatriot, and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center. The program introduces 7th through 11th grade students to computer science, cyber security operating systems, and the identification of, protection from, and removal of hackers from computer systems.



Evan and Governor Dan McKee at Cyber Camp (Courtesy: CCRI)

During a visit from Governor Dan McKee, Newport Mayor Xay Khamsyvong, and Rhode Island Department of Education Commissioner Angélica Infante-Green, Evan discussed both his experience in Cyber Camp and his passion for geography and Rhode Island history with the state and city leaders.

Cyber Camp is just one of many extended learning opportunities available to students like Evan. From the free, high-quality [All Course Network](#) to [PrepareRI internships](#), Rhode Island offers unique and engaging **out-of-school learning that prepares students for success** in and out of the classroom.

As Evan continues his educational journey at Wilbur McMahon, his mother looks forward to watching her son learn new things, grow as a student and person, and shape his own future.

“I’m trying to encourage both my boys and say ‘hey, what do you think you’re interested in?’ They can try it out and they don’t have to wait until higher education to do so,” Laurie Doherty said.

Remember, **being present is essential for students to learn.**

Little Compton's first day of school is August 29. Wish students luck and join the conversation using [#Cool2BeinSchoolRI](#) and [#Back2SchoolRI](#). View more [Student Spotlights here](#).

