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### **Fort Cherry Elementary Students Power Up With New Discovery Zone**

McDonald, PA – Students at Fort Cherry Elementary School are getting a hands-on experience with solar energy and the school's energy consumption, thanks to a solar power installation by AYA Instruments Inc.

### **The AYA solar power station and weather station will highlight the grand opening of the Fort Cherry Discovery Zone at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 30, 2017.**

AYA Instruments installed a solar power station and weather station in the Discovery Zone to help educate Fort Cherry students about solar energy and energy consumption. The Discovery Zone is used by students in grades K-12 of all content areas for several projects and activities, as well as staff and community members of the Fort Cherry School District. The Discovery Zone will include a worm/root garden, self-watering systems, shade garden, living salsa wall, and a wall mural.

AYA was selected for the installation in the summer of 2016 after Dr. Trish Craig, the Fort Cherry School Director of Curriculum and Instruction, received funding from the Benedum Foundation, Grable Foundation, and Chevron, specifically the STEAM grant (collaboration with AIU3 and IU1), Expanding Innovation Grant (collaboration with Remake Learning, LUMA Institute, South Fayette School District, and Chatham University Eden Hall).

With the help and support of the Fort Cherry maintenance staff, AYA installed both the solar power station and weather station at the Discovery Zone location, adjacent to the elementary school.

The off-grid solar power station supplies the Discovery Zone with 2000 watts of power to two AC outlets that also provide USB connections for student use. An off-grid or standalone photovoltaic system is not connected to the utility grid, instead producing its own electricity through the sun's energy. In the future, the students will have the option of connecting a wind turbine or generator to the station. The station has a battery bank to store the electricity for later use. The students will be able to monitor the performance of the station with a web-based software program.

**To attend to the grand opening, please contact Dr. Trish Craig at 724-796-1551 X248.**

### **About the AYA Instruments**

Since 1990, AYA Instruments has supplied the conventional and alternative electrical energy industry with measuring instruments. The Pittsburgh-based company provides an extensive range of electrical measuring transducers, signal conditioners, and metering transformer to a diverse customer base, including the solar, semiconductor, and process control industries.

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