

CREATIVITY, CODING, AND COMMUNITY

One of our 5th grade students, Kurtis, recently found a creative and meaningful way to celebrate the end of the school year and his upcoming graduation. Inspired by a shirt design he created for friends a few years ago during Christmas, Curtis designed a brand-new custom shirt for graduation and gifted one to each of his friends. What made the shirts especially unique was a QR code printed directly on them, linking to a website showcasing the video games he has designed and created himself.

Kurtis shared that he uses an online game-development platform to build a variety of games, including side-scrolling platformers and a tower defense game. One of his creations even earned recognition by winning a Game Jam competition, an exciting accomplishment that reflects both creativity and dedication. Through this project, Curtis demonstrated Analytical Action by learning coding, game design, and problem-solving skills while turning his ideas into fully playable experiences.

At the same time, this project reflected the importance of Engaging Each Other and building community. Rather than keeping his work to himself, Kurtis chose to share his creativity with friends in a thoughtful and memorable way. By gifting the shirts, he celebrated not only his own accomplishments, but the friendships and experiences that made his middle school years meaningful.

This experience embodies the heart of our CALLED model, encouraging students to use their talents with purpose, creativity, and generosity. Kurtis' project reminds us that God gives each student unique gifts and passions, and when those gifts are shared with others, they can inspire connection, encouragement, and joy.

