Grade 8 Math & Science Learning Opportunities Week of June 1st



Choice Board (Middle Level – Grades 6 – 8)



DIVER DOWN

Cartesian Diver

| Name: | Class: | Date: |
|-------|--------|-------|
| | | |

Question: How does a submarine change its buoyancy?

Materials:

- 2L pop bottle with a cap
- glass medicine dropper OR plastic pen cap and modeling clay
- small glass beaker
- water
- ruler

Procedure:

- 1. Fill the pop bottle with water, leaving roughly 3cm or less of air at the top.
- 2. Fill the beaker about half full of water. Using the water from the beaker, fill the medicine dropper about half full of water. If you do not have a glass medicine dropper use a plastic pen cap. Add a small glob of modeling clay to the arm of the pen cap to act as a weight.
- 3. Place the dropper (or pen cap) in the pop bottle and screw the bottle top on tight. The dropper/pen cap will be our "diver". The "diver" should be floating at the top of the bottle. If it sinks, empty the pop bottle and begin again.
- 4. Look closely at the "diver" in the pop bottle. How much of the dropper/pen cap is filled with water and how much of it is filled with air?
- 5. Grasp the outside of the pop bottle firmly with two hands. Squeeze the bottle sides tight until the "diver" sinks to the bottom of the pop bottle. Why do you think this happens?

- 6. With the "diver" still at the bottom of the bottle, look closely at the water level inside the medicine dropper/pen cap. Has it changed? Why do you think this happens?
- 7. Predict what will happen when you release the pressure on the outside of the bottle. Write your prediction.
- 8. Release the pressure on the bottle and observe what happens to the diver. How do you think you can make the dropper/pen cap stay in the middle of the bottle?

9. **Think About It:** Ballast tanks in a submarine can be filled with either water or air. How do you think they make a submarine sink or float? Write a response.