

Redlands students compete in rocket launching competition

By Sandra Emerson, Redlands Daily Fact

Posted May 30, 2017 9:07 p.m. PPDT

REDLANDS, Ca – 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 ... launch.

Rockets shot into the air above the field Tuesday at Cope Middle School at the first rocket launching competition between science students at Cope and The Grove School.

“We’ve only done a few launches,” said Marshall Berry, a seventh-grader at The Grove School. “They were only practice launches. There was nothing really on the line. This is the first time we’ve actually done it competitively.”

Four teams from Cope and two teams from Grove took to the field Tuesday for the competition, which was part of the Redlands Loyal Knights of the Round Table’s [STEM Rock Science Course](#).

Each rocket held within it a raw egg and altitude meters.

The mission? Get the rocket as close to an altitude of 375 feet as possible without breaking the egg.

“They only had one practice shot to try and gauge how high their rocket went and if they needed to add or take away weight,” said Todd Fitzpatrick, a science teacher at Cope.

Round Table member Bill Mullooly has been helping seventh- and eighth-grade students at Cope build rockets since 2010.

Mullooly has also been building rockets with Grove students in Ashley Stark’s rocketry mini course.

“As the year progressed Bill got the idea to create a little competition,” said Stark, who used to teach at Cope.

The Grove students, who were mostly seventh-graders but also included an eighth- and 11th-grader, were really motivated, Stark said.

“They really learned to work better together as a team,” she added. “It’s helping them learn basic physics practices and engineering practices.”