

GIST hosts 'Visiting Science Camp'... Visits Sani Middle School in Haenam-gun to plant 'Dreams of Science'

- Career mentoring, special lectures by professors, and science experience activities conducted for all 43 students at Sani Middle School in Haenam-gun, Gwangju, Jeollanam-do
- Providing new experiences and opportunities for challenges to youth in regions with limited educational opportunities



▲ *Students from Sani Middle School participating in the '2026 GIST Visiting Science Camp,' held on Friday, July 10, are posing for a commemorative photo.*

"Why did you choose GIST when you entered university?" In response to a question from Ji-woo Kim, a first-year student at Sani Middle School in Sani-myeon, Haenam-gun, Jeonnam-Gwangju, GIST student Seung-mo Kang (1st year, Challenge & Exploration Program) shared his story.

"When I was in middle school, I participated in the GIST online mentoring program. Meeting senior mentors at that time served as a turning point for me to think concretely about my career path. I hope that through conversations with the university student mentors you met here today, this will be a good opportunity for you to reflect on your own dreams and career paths."

The students listened attentively to the stories of current students from the Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology, whom they rarely have the chance to meet in person, and continued to ask questions about their career paths even after the lecture ended.

The Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST, President Kichul Lim) announced that it held the '2026 GIST Visiting Science Camp' at Sani Middle School on Friday, July 10, to provide various science education and experience opportunities to local youth with relatively low access to science culture.

This is a social contribution program that directly visits schools in rural areas, such as towns and villages, where opportunities for science and culture experiences are relatively limited, to operate university student mentoring, special lectures by professors, and science experience programs.

The camp, conducted by five GIST students affiliated with 'Pium' for the entire 43-member student body of Sani Middle School, was structured around hands-on experiences and communication to help students become familiar with science and technology and explore their career paths.

The event began with an introduction to GIST, followed by undergraduate career mentoring, a special lecture by a professor, a science kit assembly experience, and a Q&A session. The students of Sani Middle School shared their questions about university life, career paths, and science and technology, experiencing the world of science up close.

During the undergraduate career mentoring session, student Da-hee Jung (2nd year, Department of Materials Science and Engineering) shared her learning experiences from middle and high school, as well as her university admission process, university life, and the process of choosing her major.

Professor Dae Cheong Ha (Science and Technology Studies) of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at GIST introduced the learning attitudes and AI utilization methods necessary for the era of generative artificial intelligence under the theme of "Studying Well with AI."



▲ *Professor Dae Cheong Ha of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at GIST is delivering a special lecture titled "Studying Well with AI" to students at Sani Middle School.*

Professor Ha explained that since AI learns in a way different from humans, it is important to adopt an attitude of verifying and utilizing information independently rather than simply accepting it as is.

He continued, "In the era of generative AI, we must cultivate the power to think and learn independently alongside the ability to utilize AI effectively," emphasizing that "it is crucial to have the capability to use AI not as an entity that answers on my behalf, but as a facilitator that aids in learning."

Following the undergraduate career mentoring and the professor's special lecture, students at Sani Middle School participated in a science experience where they personally assembled wind-powered car kits and conducted driving experiments, learning the principles of renewable energy and carbon neutrality.



▲ A mentor from GIST's Social Contribution Group, "Pium," is conducting the "Wind-Powered Car Kit" experience with students at Sani Middle School.

Bo-min Seol, a first-year student in the Challenge & Exploration Program who conducted the experience, is a member of the GIST student car club 'G-BungE' and is currently building an actual self-made vehicle. Ahead of the 'Baja Student Korea 2026' competition held this month, Seol drew on her experience in car design and manufacturing to explain the principles of wind power generation and automobile operation in a way that was easy for the students to understand.

Ye-rin Oh, a second-year student at Sani Middle School, said, "I was interested in eco-friendly energy, and through this camp, I gained a deeper understanding of carbon neutrality." She added, "I knew that excessive greenhouse gas emissions cause climate change, but I newly learned that they also play a necessary role in maintaining the Earth's optimal temperature."

Jin-young Jo, a Korean language teacher at Sani Middle School, said, "I could see students actively participating in lectures by university student mentors and professors, whom they usually have difficulty meeting, as well as in hands-on science activities." She continued, "I expect that their interest and enthusiasm for science subjects will increase further through the experience of directly experiencing and applying scientific principles."

Eunji Lee, Dean of International and Public Affairs at GIST, said, "I hope this camp serves as a new intellectual stimulus and a stepping stone for career exploration for students in regions where opportunities for education and science culture experiences are relatively limited." She added, "We will continue to operate the 'Visiting Science Camp' so that more students can dream of a wider world through science and discover their potential."