‘City of Materials’ makes learning fun

There’s a new place where middle school students, teachers and parents can have fun, solve CSI-like mysteries and learn more about the amazing world of materials.

“City of Materials (www.cityofmaterials.com) is an interactive online environment where you can explore the materials that are part of our everyday lives,” said Jan Edwards, leader of ASM’s K-12 Education Subcommittee.

Developed by ASM volunteers representing the materials science and engineering community, along with the participation of pre-college teachers and graduate students, City of Materials is technology rich, web based, visual and interactive. The goal is for students to connect with Materials Science and Engineering both as a real world engineering discipline and as a possible career.

The cornerstone of the website is the City Tour game. “It’s all about making materials science and engineering more interesting and accessible while exposing younger students to important scientific and engineering processes,” Edwards said.

What to See in the City: Tour the city to see how materials are used in everyday living. Along the way, you can help solve a few cases and learn about the latest advances.

Mayor Charpy’s House: Make yourself at home in the kitchen, just don’t leave the water running in the sink for too long. Simple and safe experiments to try in your own kitchen are available.

Austen Detective Agency: We need a new Private Investigator! Here’s your opportunity to solve the latest materials mystery.

CSI Lab: Sift through the evidence to crack the case. Tour the lab and you’ll find all of the equipment you need to put materials to the test.

“Materials are the stuff the world is made of, from spacecraft to artificial hearts,” Edwards said. “Through City of Materials, we hope to intrigue young people about the realities and possibilities of metals, ceramics, composites, electronic materials, polymers, and textiles.”

“Congratulations to the K-12 Subcommittee for developing this exciting and innovative activity,” said ASM President Roger Fabian, FASM. “I encourage all ASM members to tell their kids and neighbors about this great new way to have fun while learning about materials.”

REGISTER NOW!

M&M 2009 features excellent symposia on materials characterization and metallography.

Topics include:

- Microscopy and Microanalysis of Nanostructured Materials
- Irradiation Damage and Modification of Materials
- Characterization of Materials for Responsible Energy Generation and Use
- Advanced Coating Stability: Ceramics/Composites/Metallic-Polymer Co-Deposition
- The Otto Scherzer Memorial Symposium on Aberration-Corrected Electron Microscopy
- Characterization of Interactive Surfaces: Corrosion, Wear, Tribology and Processing
- Archeometallurgy: Analyses and Characterization
- Metals and Minerals and Microstructure: Applications and Advances of Electron Backscatter Diffraction (EBSD)
- Failure Analyses: Practical Metallography/Fractography in Case Studies
- Electron Diffraction and Imaging Techniques for Quantitative Structure Determination
- Metallographic Techniques & Materials Characterization

Go to http://mm2009.microscopy.org for registration and program details.