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St. Michael School Advances From Regional to State Competition for Science Olympiad

For the second consecutive year, St. Michael School Middle School Science Olympiad team advances to compete at the state level of the tournament. The 39 students of the Varsity and JV teams placed in 19 of the 23 events at the regional Science Olympiad competition, which was held on February 5th at Green Hope High School. The Varsity team took 5th place out of 18 varsity squads and JV took 3rd place out of 11 squads. The schools with the top five varsity squads advance to the state competition that takes place the last weekend in April on the NC State campus.

This is the fourth year for St. Michael School to participate in Science Olympiad. The teams spent four months after school and on weekends training and studying for events in areas such as Anatomy, Meteorology, the Solar System, and Food Science. They built catapults and cars, identified birds and fossils, and used their deductive reasoning skills to solve problems like how to recreate a LEGO™ structure without instructions and how to build a working model of a bridge and tower using junk.

The best part of the competition, for parents and students alike, is the excitement generated in learning and doing well in academics. 7th grader Victor Cardeno shared his excitement with the following quote: "I did the Junkyard Challenge event; it was especially cool to be building my tower alongside my fellow competitors. That just made it more exciting. I also participated in the Helicopter Duration. Our best flight was 36 seconds and we got a varsity medal for 3rd and an overall placing of 5th. I was so happy when I got my medal."

After the day long competition, over a thousand students and their coaches from the six county Raleigh region gathered in the gymnasium at Green Hope High to cheer on their teams as the regional medal winners were announced. Chuck Elms, one of the StMS coaches for the past several years, finds working with the St. Michael's students very rewarding. "It's especially fulfilling to see them working hard, learning, and get so excited when they win. It doesn't get much better than this!"

The following StMS students won medals in their events:

Anatomy - Sam Gay and Christopher Cortina (V 2nd); Katherine Combs and Arya Sundaram (JV 1st)

Battery Buggy -Mia Abouhamad and Miranda Munoz (V 1st); Gaby Cardeno and Zheng Schuster (JV 2nd)

Crime Busters -Brianne Vasarhelyi and Emily Wood (V 4th); Anthony Cortina and J.T. Klimek (JV 2nd)

Disease Detectives -Katherine Combs and Arya Sundaram (JV 1st)

Dynamic Planet -Adelaide Cooke and Audrey Cooke (JV 3rd)

Experimental Design - Camille Latour and Tiffany Nguyen (V 5th); Emily Odins and Lauren Pan (JV 3rd)

Food Science -Isabelle Miranda and Anna Toy (V 5th); Sofia San Miguel and Arya Sundaram (JV 1st)

Fossils -Gaby Cardeno and Zheng Schuster (JV 2nd)

Helicopters -Victor Cardeno and Jacob Do (V 3rd)

Junkyard Challenge -Liam Clabby and Jake Holley (JV 3rd)

Meteorology -Mia Abouhamad and Miranda Munoz (V 2nd); Emily Odins and Lauren Pan (JV 3rd); Brian Rauh and David Wicklin (JV 1st)

Microbe Mission-Mia Abouhamad and Miranda Munoz (V 2nd); Katherine Combs and Arya Sundaram (JV 1st)

Ornithology-J.T. Klimek and Kevin Salcido (JV 1st)

Road Scholar - Adelaide Cooke and Audrey Cooke (JV 2nd)

Shock Value -Chase Rony (V 4th); Adelaide Cooke and Audrey Cooke (JV 2nd)

Solar System -Anthony Cortina and J.T. Klimek (JV 1st)

Storm the Castle - Kayla Bassett and Annie Pierce (V 4th)

Towers -Emma Butler and Alexa Cardoso (JV 3rd)

Write It, Do It-Camille Latour and Tiffany Nguyen (V 3rd); Catherine Wagner and Ethan Wagner (JV 1st); Emma Butler and Alexa Cardoso (JV 3rd)