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St. Michael School's Science Olympians Shine

St. Michael School competed in the Regional Science Olympiad Competition in Garner, NC, on February 14th. There were 1200 students from 61 schools at the Garner competition. St. Michael's team of 33 students competed in various science events, and in those events 24 student teams placed in the Top Five. Overall the JV Team placed 3rd and the Varsity Team placed 7th. Three First Place JV student teams and three First Place Varsity student teams are moving on to the State Competition to occur in April at the NC State Campus.

This is the second time the school has participated in the Science Olympiad. All 33 middle school students and 15 parent/teacher coaches worked for six months to prepare for their competitive events. Some students constructed trajectories and bridges, while others were tested in Anatomy, Meteorology, Ecology and Astronomy. As some students attempted to solve a crime scene, others blasted eggs into the sky hoping they would return safely to the ground.

"The students have worked diligently during their meetings," says Mrs. Griffin, head coach and Saint Michael School teacher. "They have learned more about science outside of class while having fun too. I love competition day; the students usually have to think on their feet to deal with the unexpected and are eager to use their new skills."

The unexpected happened for the varsity Egg-O-Naut team, Peter Rizzo and Ben Williams. An Egg-O-Naut rocket is shot high into the air with a 60 PSI pressure boost and the goal is to land the rocket without breaking the egg. The St. Michael's team designed their rocket to break apart, the rocket bottom helps shoot up the rocket and then falls away. The top half of the rocket continues high into the air and then floats down gently, saving the egg. The first rocket Rizzo and Williams shot up landed with a thud, cracking the egg. Quickly, they reconvened and modified the second rocket and repacked the parachutes for a very successful blastoff. The team shot into first place at the awards ceremony and they will advance to the final NC State competition on April 25th.

As students had fun learning outside the science classroom, they dealt with the unexpected, thought on their feet, and enjoyed being cheered on at an awards ceremony that was packed to capacity. Way to go, Science Olympiad!

For more information:

National Science Olympiad: www.soinc.org

NC Science Olympiad: www.sciencenc.com
St. Michael School JV and Varsity results

***In partnership with St. Michael Catholic Church, Saint Michael School provides a Christ-centered Catholic education, with a focus on academic excellence, and development of each individual. St. Michael School serves students from grades Pre-K to 8th and welcomes all religious, racial, ethnic, and income backgrounds. St. Michael School's priority is to continually celebrate the diverse gifts and God-given talents within the school community. For more information on the curriculum, admissions, policies, or registration, contact the school office at 919- 468-6150 or visit <http://school.stmcary.org>.