

# MPS NEWS ONLINE



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## Dates to Remember:

- March 10, 2014; Policy Comm. Mtg. 5:30 p.m.; Director's Rm., Lincoln Center
- March 10, 2014; BOE Mtg. 7:00 p.m.; Lincoln Center, Hearing Rm.
- March 12, 13, 18, 19, 20— School Conferences
- March 24, 2014; C&I Comm. Mtg. 5:30 p.m.; Director's Room, Lincoln Center

## Math-Science Partnership

Manchester Public Schools has been awarded one of four Math-Science Partnership grants from the State of Connecticut for 2013 - 2015. Manchester serves as the lead partner and will collaborate with the University of Connecticut and other partner districts to address the demands of the Common Core State Standards and the Smarter Balanced Assessments. The program includes an analysis of existing resources, a 5-day summer workshop for teachers of mathematics in 2014, on-going job embedded support during the 2014-2015 academic year, and a culminating reflective workshop in 2015. The emphasis of the program is to support resource development and implementation to reinforce students' engagement with argu-

## District Improvement Team

As Manchester continues to establish systems for communication and holistic accountability, a District Improvement Team (DIT) has been established to facilitate this work. Various teachers, department heads, and administrators have been invited to participate as members. Each participant offers a unique perspective and skill set that is instrumental in providing communication between school based teams and the district level DIT.

The overall goals of the DIT are to build a district-wide plan for communication, curriculum and instruction, assessment, professional learning, and support and to monitor the district-wide plan as it relates to all school based work.





Bennet Academy



Illing Middle School



Future Problem Solvers



Explore Transportation Alternatives

Congratulations to Bennet Academy, Illing Middle School and Manchester High School Future Problem Solvers (FPS). Thirty-five students who participate in the Future Problem Solving academic competition have qualified to compete in the **31<sup>st</sup> Annual Future Problem Solving Conference** at North Haven High School in North Haven, CT on March 28-29. FPS is part of the C.O.R.E. Enrichment program for gifted and talented students in Manchester Public Schools. The students participating in the State Competition this year are: **Emma Fisher, Myles Hurley, Aminah Nassiff, Mary Robbins and Zach St. Laurent of Manchester High School; Jake St. Laurent, David Mazzotta, and Haley Zalzman of Illing Middle School and Leandro Arenas, Adrianna Campbell, Emily Christensen, Karen Darko, Aliza Ebor, Vanessa Hudson, Vivian Hudson, Waleed Khalid, Megan Kievman, Julia Leon, Noah Luby, Noor Majid, Anthony Mazzotta, Katherine Miner, Samantha Minor, Chelsea Morttey, Tammer Nassiff, Alyssa Paré, Aneesia Rivera, Brennen Ruganis, Diana Santa-Cruz, Kate Shaw-Mumford, Alyssa Spina, Eden Thompson, Sarah Turley, Matthew Valentine, and Courtney Walsh, of Bennet Academy.**

The Conference involves two days of high level team competition with students from all over the state of Connecticut. The topic students will be solving at the Conference is **Land Transportation**: an exploration of innovative vehicles and alternative fuels which potentially could solve many of the transportation issues we experience today. Soaring fuel prices, difficult commutes and increasing traffic accidents are inspiring innovators to consider new technologies and inventions which may significantly change the way we travel in the future. Manchester Public School students hope to influence and inspire these innovations through their work in the Future Problem Solving Program.

The goal of the FPS Program is to help children develop the critical and creative thinking skills necessary to adapt to a changing society. Future Problem Solvers learn how to think, rather than what to think. Students develop teamwork skills, improve their written and oral communication and engage in realistic exploration of complex societal issues.

Teams work under the guidance of an experienced Future Problem Solving coach, **Mrs. Samantha Randazzo**, C.O.R.E. Enrichment Program Teacher. Students learn how to apply the six-step FPS problem solving process to a futuristic scenario. After studying the written scenario, teams identify implied challenges and issues as they refine their ideas to one problem area, generate solutions, evaluate their solutions, and write an action plan detailing the best solution.

Please visit these websites for more information: [www.fpspofct.org](http://www.fpspofct.org) and [www.fpspi.org](http://www.fpspi.org).