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 **31st 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 Zalcman** of Illing Middle School and **Leandro Arenas, Adrianna Campbell, Emily Christensen, Karen Darko, Aliza Ebora, 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. 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 and www.fpspi.org.