



THOMASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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THOMASTON CENTER SCHOOL INVENTORS PARTICIPATE IN CENTER SCHOOL'S INVENTION CONVENTION

Sixth Grade Students Advance to the Semi-Finals

(Thomaston, CT)—More than sixty Thomaston Center School students highlighted their entrepreneurial skills during the first annual Thomaston Center School Invention Convention Celebration on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 in the school gymnasium. As part of the science and library-media classes, sixth grade students planned and executed inventions in a competition modeled after the Connecticut Invention Convention (CIC) program.

According to Principal Kristin Bernier, a two-tiered judging panel at the school level selected the seven students to move into the state competition to be held on May 4, 2019 at UCONN. Hailey Hychko, Mackenzie Pelletier, Jacob Hotchkiss, CJ Marcil, Mason Allen, Maddox Lahey, Berlyn Brzoska were among the students selected. The inventions incorporated a variety of ideas, including a prototype for a beach umbrella that charges electronics through a solar panel, an backpack with a built-in hood, and an agricultural contraption.

Through their participation in the school competition, students gained a better understanding of what it means to creatively express and display their skills in a real world setting. The enthusiasm for the entrepreneurship experience was inspirational. Ms. Joyce Knowlton, sixth grade science teacher, and Ms. Melissa Saramanidis facilitated this endeavor. This was the third year Thomaston Center School participated in the statewide affair.

Background of CIC:

According to the CIC website, the Connecticut Invention Convention (CIC) is an award winning, internationally recognized, 501(c)(3) educational organization started in 1983 as part of the Connecticut Educators Network for the Talented and Gifted, but today is open to all K-8 students in all schools and school groups across Connecticut. The program is designed to develop, encourage, and enhance critical thinking and creative problem solving skills through invention and entrepreneurship.

Invention provides students with a unique means to discover new skill sets and creatively apply these in real-life settings while nurturing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The CIC curriculum is standards-based and enables students to research, analyze and effectively focus on and solve their real-life problems.

The annual convention also gives many students and parents an introduction to careers in engineering with exhibits staffed by UConn's students and professors, which showcase engineering subjects, including civil, mechanical, and chemical engineering – helping students discover engineering and science as real possible careers, definitely within reach.

Since its inception, an estimated 300,000 children, K-8, have experienced local and regional CIC invention programs. Annually the CIC serves more than 17,000 students in grades K - 8 across

Connecticut from over 250+ participating Connecticut schools. Of this number, close to 1,000 of the best student inventors join us at the state convention held at the University of Connecticut and a select number of them will be invited to attend the national invention convention in Washington, DC. Source: <http://www.ctinventionconvention.org/>



Photo caption: Thomaston Center School students compete in the Connecticut Invention Convention Regional Competition on March 19, 2019. From left to right Hailey Hychko, Mackenzie Pelletier, Jacob Hotchkiss, CJ Marcil, Mason Allen, Maddox Lahey, Berlyn Brzoska.



Photo caption: Thomaston Center School students Danica Galpin (left) and Emma Derosiers (Right) discuss Brooke Curtis's (center) invention the Check Wrist, a memory device for students.



Photo Caption: Sixth grader Jacqueline Philips explains her invention “Stick-n-lick” a device to help dogs who don’t like to be bathed.

Thomaston Board of Education Mission Statement:

In a partnership of family, school and community, our mission is to educate, challenge and inspire each individual to excel and become a contributing member of society.

-TBOE Policy 0100

Goals and Objectives of the Thomaston Board of Education:

The Thomaston Board of Education believes that all students have a right to an education which is based on standards of excellence, which stresses rigorous demands and which serves to expand students' personal horizons. The Board believes that the education of each student is the shared responsibility of

students, parents, faculty, and administrators. The Board also recognizes that students differ in their interests and abilities and therefore the district offers a comprehensive program consisting of a variety of learning experiences. The Board believes that an important function of the school is to prepare students for participation in our American democratic society. The Board seeks to improve the intellectual, emotional, social, and physical capacities of all students. The Board encourages the development of thinking and communication skills, the tolerance of and responsibility for others, and the understanding of varied cultures and life styles. In order to implement this philosophy, recognizing that elementary, middle and high school education are important steps in a lifelong process, the Board of Education establishes the following objectives:

- A. To teach the essential skills traditionally associated with the various disciplines.
- B. To develop the four communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- C. To extend and refine the students' ability to comprehend, interpret, and evaluate printed, visual, and aural material.
- D. To develop critical thinking.
- E. To further the students' development of self-awareness, self-discipline, and self-esteem.
- F. To promote the physical well-being of all students.
- G. To promote creativity and appreciation of the arts, humanities, and sciences.
- H. To encourage students to consider both the alternatives to and the consequences of their actions in the decision making process.
- I. To present career options and to assist students in setting tentative goals.
- J. To help the student appreciate that learning is integrated and continuous.

-TBOE Policy 5010

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Kristin Reichelt Bernier at 860-283-3036 or email at kbernier@thomastonschools.org.