



## NC Student Academy of Science Research Paper Competition Winners / NC Science and Engineering Fair Winners



The North Carolina Student Academy of Science (NCSAS) fosters interaction between student researchers and actual scientists. NCSAS sponsors academic competitions on a yearly basis with regional winners invited to the NC School of Science and Math in Durham to compete at the state level. This competition is distinctive in that it requires both a paper and an oral presentation, and it also provides an opportunity for students to receive constructive feedback from the research scientists who judged their projects. This year, MCA had several winners at the regional level who went on to compete in Durham, and they also performed very well at the state level.

### Middle School

- 1st - Environmental Science: **Cameron Shaw**
- 1st - Behavioral Science- **Martina Banas**
- 2nd - Technology and Engineering - **Madison Lawson**

### High School

- 3rd - Environmental Science: **Anna Gibbons/Alayna Smith**
- 2nd - Technology and Engineering- **Sarah Shepherd**
- The US Naval Award- **Jack Bevard**

Four students competed in the NC Science and Engineering fair, which is the science fair board competition held annually at Meredith College. **Anna Gibbons** and **Alayna Smith** won a special Women in Geoscience award for their project about composting.

Science fair state level winners are, back row standing, **Sarah Shepherd, Anna Gibbons, Alayna Smith, and Jack Bevard**; Middle row, **Cameron Shaw** and **Madison Lawson**; Front, **Martina Banas**



## National Junior Honor Society Inductions

Eight MCA students, **Grant Routh**, 8<sup>th</sup>, **Paiton Surratt**, 6<sup>th</sup>, **Ava Utt**, 6<sup>th</sup>, **Jordan Rierson**, 8<sup>th</sup>, **Robert Marshall**, 7<sup>th</sup>, **Brianna Bantzen**, 8<sup>th</sup>, **Trisaia Legere**, 8<sup>th</sup>, and **Kaya McDowell**, 8<sup>th</sup>, were recently inducted into the MCA chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. The NJHS recognizes and honors those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship. To be inducted into the Millennium Charter Academy chapter of the NJHS, students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.75. Each student meeting this criteria completed an application that included extracurricular activities and service projects. The MCA NJHS Advisory Board, which consists of MCA upper school teachers, reviewed the applications and then selected students according to the national requirements.



NJHS inductees are, left to right, **Grant Routh, Paiton Surratt, Ava Utt, Jordan Rierson, Robert Marshall, Brianna Bantzen, Trisaia Legere, and Kaya McDowell**.

## MCA Students Win State Awards for Odyssey of the Mind Competition



On March 4, several MCA students participated in a regional level competition of the North Carolina Odyssey of the Mind at Northwest Guilford High School. The MCA team won second place overall out of more than twenty schools across nineteen counties. Helping the MCA team win was the overall complexity of their Odyssey of the Mind mission: "Catch Us if You Can." This mission required the team to build a small scale garage which had to hold three cars, each powered by a different method and with each having the mission of traveling twelve feet while evading a follower. The garage had to be constructed to fit in a two by two feet area, although there were no height restrictions placed on it. The MCA team devised one car using weights and a ramp that propelled it twelve feet, one car with a rubber band, sling-shot launch, and a third car that used a rubber band to launch it into the air like a rocket. The team was able to score points on the evasion portion of the

Odyssey of the Mind winners are **Cody Kirsch** (7<sup>th</sup> grade), **Caleb Willingham** (8<sup>th</sup> grade), **Nicolai Caldwell** (8<sup>th</sup> grade), **Samantha Medrano** (6<sup>th</sup> grade), and **Leah Shaw**; Not pictured are **Daniel Fitzpatrick** (6<sup>th</sup> grade) and **Caleb Frazier** (6<sup>th</sup> grade).

problem with two of their cars, keeping one car aloft long enough to miss a potential capture, and by forcing a course turn on one of the ground based cars. When asked what he liked best about the competition, 8<sup>th</sup> grader Caleb Willingham said that the competition "helped me understand how to lead and how to work with people. The engineering problem was difficult, but it made me think differently to solve it, and it challenged me how I thought about things, and I liked that." This team will go on to the state level of competition held at NC A&T University on April 1.

## Science Expo Held at MCA

Recently several local businesses and even universities came to MCA to present our high school students information on the possible science related careers available in this area. Students were able to learn some of the chemistry involved when making dye for socks by Renfro Corporation, learn about the computer programming involved for making socks with Nester Hosiery,



learn some of the things involved in making foam with NC Foam

Industries and much more. Left, students watch as NCFI makes foam, and at the right, AES shows students about the processes involved in creating and testing circuit boards. You can read more about this exciting day for our students in *The Mount Airy News*: <http://mtairynews.com/news/49300/millennium-holds-science-expo>

