

John Jay honored for 25 years at state Science Olympiad



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On Saturday, March 21, John Jay High School was honored for being the only school in New York that has attained the state Science Olympiad competitions for 25 years in a row. Since the founding of the school's Science Olympiad program, John Jay's team has consistently performed at the top of the regional competitions and gone on to the state competition. A ceremony honoring the program took place on Saturday at West Point, the site of this year's state competition.

This year's 12-member primary team took second place at the regional lower Hudson Valley Olympiad, behind one of New Rochelle's teams, while the 10-member secondary team took ninth place out of 29 teams. The team sent to the state competitions will be comprised of 15 students selected from both regional teams.

While John Jay was the highest ranked of the four teams from the lower Hudson Valley at the state competition, the team did not make it to the national competition, placing 20th out of 45 teams. Juniors Benjamin Fischberg and Derek Racine earned third place in the environmental chemistry event, while sophomores Tyler St. Denis and Jeremy Zitomer placed third in the health sciences event. The team also earned fifth place medals in two events and sixth place medals in two events.

Students in Science Olympiad compete in up to 20 events, which test skills ranging from investigating, such as forensics and disease diagnosis, to engineering and construction, to pure knowledge.

The team that went to the state competition included seniors Isabel Baker, Joshua Bolgar, Madeline Coleman, Margaret Cunniff, Julianne Gagnon and Eugenia Volkova; juniors Benjamin Fischberg, Chloe Lee, Julie Qiu, Derek Racine and Alana Shizume; and sophomores Christopher Curro, Veronica Brady, Tyler St. Denis and Jeremy Zitomer.

Regional competition

At the regional competition, held earlier this month, John Jay's primary team earned first place medals in the "disease detective" competition, with second place medals in chemistry lab, environmental chemistry, fossils, health science, herpetology, and a communications-based event called "picture this." A third-place medal was earned in "it's about time," where students were required to construct their own time-measuring device.

The secondary team earned one second place medal in disease detectives and four fourth place medals, in ecology, health science, herpetology and "picture this."

The primary team includes seniors Isabel Baker, Joshua Bolgar, Madeline Coleman, Margaret Cunniff, Julianne Gagnon and Eugenia Volkova, juniors Benjamin Fischberg, Chloe Lee, Julie Qiu, Derek Racine and Alana Shizume, and sophomore Christopher Curro, while the secondary team includes seniors Isaac Hassan, Cara Schwartz and Betsy Weston, juniors Claire Burns and Emma Squire, and sophomores Veronica Brady, William Dingee, Nina Pious, Tyler St. Denis and Jeremy Zitomer.

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