

Press from:

The New Providence School District
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Subject: New Providence High School STEM students achieve high honors at Bridge Building Competition.

New Providence High School attended the Union County College Bridge Building competition, sponsored by Union County Community College in Cranford, NJ, on Thursday, December 5, 2018. This is the 11th year that NPHS participated in this competition.

There were 6 teams from New Providence, consisting of thirty-five students in grades 9-12. Students from the STEM Club and Technology and Design classes combined to form two novice and four advanced teams.

Each team was tasked to build a bridge using many skills learned in the classroom such as the design process, principles of construction, and computerized research and resources to predict loads and weaknesses. The goal of the competition was to build the bridge which would carry the maximum load with the lightest, most efficient construction.

Out of twenty participating schools overall in Union County, New Providence High School had a first and second place finish in the advanced category. Additional NPHS advanced teams received sixth and thirteenth place as well.

The two NPHS Novice teams also received high honors with a second place finish and a seventh place finish.

Mr. John Russo, Technology and Construction Teacher and Club Advisor, states "I have been the bridge competition advisor for over ten years and am always amazed at how much fun the students have and how well they perform. The students begin planning and designing in early October and start building in November and are busy after school up until the competition day. The students follow the Engineering Design Process and use the computer programs to test their designs.

The teams work hard to get the bridges completed on time and they are anxious to see what the other schools have designed and if they will be able to outperform them.

This competition has always been one of my favorites. I get to see so many of my past and present students working together as a team and applying so many of the structural design principles and construction techniques they had learned in class.”

Denise Moser, Engineering and Design Teacher and Club Advisor, adds “I am always so proud of how well our students compete at this event. They have great attitude and wonderful sportsmanship. I also enjoy witnessing their enthusiasm in the hours they spend preparing after school in the wood shop or on the computers, applying CAD programs to help design their structures. John Russo inspires the students to strive for their best and, consequently, our school always ranks in the top three places in the novice and the advanced level, every year.”

