

## STEARNS JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL GIFTED & TALENTED/ENRICHMENT NEWS

MILLINOCKET MAINE - “Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” ~ Mahatma Gandhi That's exactly what the 7th and 8th-grade classes at the Stearns Jr/Sr High are doing. They are participating in a program called [Project Citizen](#). The program is sponsored by the Center for Civic Education and empowers students to initiate change by teaching them the political process of creating policy. The students have divided into six groups to tackle problems they feel can be addressed through policy changes. Stearns is the only school in Maine that will submit a portfolio to the National Showcase.

Some of the issues the students are tackling are Gun Safety, Homeless Veterans, School Hygiene, Reducing Plastic Waste, Four-Day School Week and Modification to the School’s No Hat Policy. The student groups will analyze their problems, create alternate solutions, write and define policies and finally develop an action plan that outlines the process steps to implement their policies.

Project Citizen is an interdisciplinary curricular program for middle, secondary, and post-secondary students, youth organizations, and adult groups that promotes competent and responsible participation in local and state government. The program helps participants learn how to monitor and influence public policy. In the process, they develop support for democratic values and principles, tolerance, and feelings of political efficacy (Civic Center, 2017).

MILLINOCKET MAINE - The Future City Engineering Competition is not a new student engineering program. It is however new to Maine! The middle school students at the Stearns Jr/Sr High School participated in the Regional Competition on January 26th long-distance using the Social Networking App GoToMeeting. They are the first team to compete long distance! Future City is a cross-curricular educational program that gives students the opportunity to do the things that engineers do - identify problems; learn the specs and brainstorm solutions; design solutions; build it, test and retest, and share their results (“Educators”, Future City, 2017, <https://futurecity.org/>).

The 2019 - 2020 theme was Clean Water: Tap Into Tomorrow. The team had to choose a threat to their city’s water supply and designed a resilient system to maintain a reliable supply of clean drinking water. The team was then tasked with incorporating this theme into four components as part of their futuristic city. The city had to be at least 100 years in the future. The four components included writing an essay of 1,500 words or less describing how their futuristic city solved the theme’s challenge. Designing a computer

version of their futuristic city using the SIM City program. The team also was required to create a 3-D model of a section of their city. Finally, three presenters were chosen by the team to demonstrate their knowledge of the engineering concepts used to design their city before a panel of judges.



Future City Competition presenters from left to right (top) Emma Ayotte (6th), Braidey Girsa (8th), bottom left to right Vanessa Morrow (6th) and Robert Cyr (7th).



Victoria Goodwin 7th grade Stearns Jr/Sr High School

Spelling Bee Winner!

MILLINOCKET, ME - On January 24th, the Stearns Jr/Sr High 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students participated in the [Scripps National School Spelling](#) Bee. It was a grueling competition requiring extra time to complete the final round. After well over an hour of arduous words, Victoria Goodwin, 7th grade, was the esteemed Stearns Jr/Sr Spelling Bee Champion!

Victoria will move on to the County Spelling Bee hosted by Center Drive School in Orrington on February 12th at 6 pm. Should there be a snow day, the event will be the following evening, February 13th, at 6 pm.

Best of luck, Victoria!

MILLINOCKET, ME - The Stearns Jr/Sr High School 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students participated in the National Geography Bee on January 24th. There was an array of intense geographical questions that were aimed to challenge the most astute geography master. The competition was highlighted by a session of Millinocket trivia questions. After several rounds of thought-provoking questions, Alexander McKinney, an 8th-grade student was the victorious school winner!

How does the Geography Bee work? Schools conduct an annual **GeoBee** contest and name a school champion. The school champion takes a proctored online qualifying test and the top-100-ranked students in each state qualify to represent their school at the State **GeoBee** competition. State champions are then invited to compete in the national championship.

Alex will take the qualifying test on February 6th and we are sure she will make it to the State GeoBee! The results will be released on March 2, 2020.



Alexandra McKinney Stearns Jr/Sr High School  
Geography Bee Winner