Science Olympiad has been a great addition to Mount Vernon Middle School. It has gained such interest in science that the high school students want to start a program. This program has allowed the students that participate to gather higher level of knowledge, foster teamwork, encourage engineering, and increase the interest in science beyond high school.

The events for science Olympiad are extremely rigorous as well as relevant. The students are able to learn at a much higher level than what is usually required in the classroom. For example the Solar System event requires the student to learn that is beyond the first year class in college.

Science Olympiad also allows students to practice their engineering skills through the building events. The events allow them to foster their creativity as well as work through the trial and error process of building. Science Olympiad requires the students to build trebuchets, bridges, towers, planes, mousetrap vehicles and many other interesting yet demanding structures.

Science Olympiad also fosters teamwork. The students learn how to work together in a partnership as well as a team. They get to practice as well as learn more effective communication skills.

Finally, Science Olympiad fosters interest in STEM careers as well as higher level science classes. A majority of my Science Olympiad students go on to take higher level science classes in high school as well as take Project Lead the Way classes. In addition, many go on to study science in college. I started the program at MVMS 6 years ago and the girls I had on my team the first year all went on to college to study some form of science.

Science Olympiad is beneficial to all of the students that join. We need to do whatever we can to encourage the participation in this program. In Iowa we need to encourage more schools to participate as another way to advance the STEM careers.

Sincerely,
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