



New Canaan Public Schools
39 Locust Avenue
New Canaan, CT 06840

For Immediate Release:

Saxe Middle School STEM team, under the guidance of STEM teacher Vivian Birdsall, is one of the nation's 255 finalists - and the state's only Fairfield County representative

STEM Students at Saxe Reach State Finals in National Contest

New Canaan, CT (December 5, 2017). A group of seventh grade STEM students at Saxe Middle School in New Canaan, CT, submitted a winning project that earned them one of five state finalist positions in a national contest sponsored by Samsung. The Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest, a program that encourages students to solve real-world issues in their community using classroom skills in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM), challenges public school teachers and students in grades 6-12 to show how STEAM can be applied to help improve their neighborhoods and their world.

The Saxe team, under the guidance of STEM teacher at Saxe, Vivian Birdsall, chose to demonstrate how STEAM skills can be used to address pedestrian safety. To tackle this project, students will work directly with district and Town officials to create a system of artistic signs that use technology to alert drivers to slow down when pedestrians are up ahead. Ms. Birdsall is currently working on an Activity Plan, and she and her students are meeting with Town officials to discuss how they will execute their project.

As one of the nation's 255 finalist and the state's only finalist from Fairfield County, Saxe Middle School will be awarded a Samsung Chromebook® for use in Ms. Birdsall's classroom. Saxe Middle School will now advance in the competition and have an opportunity to earn additional classroom technology prizes.

The Connecticut state winner, to be announced in December, will receive a \$25,000 Samsung technology package. All state winners will then submit a video of their project in action. 10 national finalists will be selected to attend a Pitch Event where they will pitch their project to a panel of judges. Three national winners will be selected and each will receive a \$150,000 Samsung technology package.



Pictured are 7th grade STEM students from Saxe Middle School, whose winning entry earned them one of 255 finalist positions in a national STEAM

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