

Coventry Board of Education

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Three Future Problem Solving (FPS) teams from Coventry have qualified to represent Coventry at the 26th Annual Connecticut Future Problem Solving Program State Conference, March 27th & 28th at E. O. Smith High School. The ninth grade team includes Meghan Fowler, Tierney Morton, Jordan Sabin, and Taylor Vann. The eighth grade team includes Michael Clausen, Erika Trudon, Moira Riordan, and Emma Thomas. These students are coached by Coventry parent, Lisa Thomas. The fifth grade team includes Evan Faulkner, Charlie Riordan, John Willett, and Peter Thompson. In addition, 5th grader Rachael Dumais will compete in the alternate's competition. Carla Kennedy, Coventry's Challenge and Enrichment Program coordinator, coaches these 5th grade students.

To qualify for competition, students researched and analyzed issues connected to *Space Junk* or, orbital debris – an issue with growing importance, as evidenced by the recent collision of two communications satellites. Their research helped them to examine challenges connected to both civilian and military uses of orbital space. They then used Dr. E. Paul Torrance's Creative Problem Solving process to solve related problems set in the future.

During the FPS State Conference, top students from around Connecticut will be presented with a future scene related to *counterfeit products and their impact on economics and safety*. At the awards ceremony on Saturday evening, trophies will be presented to the first, second, and third place teams and individuals. The first place, State Champion, teams in each division will be invited to the International Future Problem Solving Conference at Michigan State University in June.

If you have any questions or for more information please contact the Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School at 742-7334.