

New **TSA Club** Goes to Nationals!



The Frelinghuysen Middle School Technology Student Association (TSA) brought home numerous awards after competing in its first, ever, statewide TSA competition held recently at the College of New Jersey. Members of the team captured first-place honors in the Inventions and Innovations category and second-place honors in the Electrical Applications and Tech Super Bowl competitions.

The TSA is an international organization, which promotes technological literacy and leadership through competitions and design challenges that require critical thinking, teamwork, problem solving, and effective communication.

The Frelinghuysen team of Audrey Fox, Alexis Feeney, and Ashley Martinez took the top prize in the Inventions and Innovations competition. This competition requires teams of 3 or more students to identify a problem and then brainstorm an invention, innovation, or process that would provide a solution. Semifinalists must then present their proposed solution to a panel of judges.

The team of FMS girls proposed and successfully defended a design for a prosthetic shark fin that would prevent sharks from drowning after their fins are removed for shark fin soup.

In the Electrical Applications competition, a written test assessed students' knowledge of electronic theory. Eighth-grader Jacob Fuhr captured second-place honors in The 7th grade team of Abhay Benoy, Vaughn Hays, and Brian LuValle bested all but one other middle school team in the highly-competitive Tech Bowl competition. After successfully completing a written examination, the team went head-to-head against other successful teams in a single elimination Jeopardy style quiz that challenged the students' knowledge of technology and engineering.

"I could not be more proud of our students' performance. They were prepared, poised, and articulate representatives of our school and community," said FMS technology teacher and TSA team coach Harrison Scheerer. "Their success makes evident the exceptional technology resources and caliber of instruction available in our schools," he added. All seven team members qualified to compete in the TSA National competition set for Orlando, Florida from June 21 – 25.