



Contact:

Emily Morgan

morgane@norwalkps.org

203-854-4007 office

Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy Named State Finalist for Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Competition, Second Year in a Row

Norwalk, Conn. (Dec. 16, 2024) - Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy is thrilled to announce that it has been named a State Finalist in the 2024-2025 Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest, a competition that challenges students to use STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) skills to develop innovative solutions for real-world issues.

The Ponus Ridge team impressed the judges with their groundbreaking project, Lotus: Solve Your Stress, which addresses stress and the mental health of students in school. This accomplishment highlights the creativity, teamwork, and dedication of the students and their mentor, Joe Giandurco, a sixth grade science teacher at Ponus Ridge, in advancing science and technology for community betterment.

As a State Finalist, Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy will receive a prize package that includes \$2,500 in technology and classroom resources from Samsung, enabling the school to further enhance its STEAM initiatives.

“We are incredibly proud of our students and the hard work they put into this project,” Giandurco said. “Their innovation and commitment to making a difference demonstrate the power of STEAM education in shaping the future. This recognition validates our efforts to inspire and equip the next generation of problem solvers.”

The Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest encourages students to think critically about how STEM can address critical issues in their communities. This year’s competition saw thousands of schools from across the nation compete with only 300 teams selected at State Finalist. Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy’s victory stands as a testament to their ingenuity and passion for creating a positive impact.

The team from Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy is made up of 6th and 7th grade students. The team includes Anusha Mundra, Isabella Oliver, Noor Fatima, Sadika Ilma, Viti Patel and Alfredo (Aj) Martinez.

This is the 4th time in the history of the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition that Ponus has been named a State Finalist.

About Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy

Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy is dedicated to providing students with an interdisciplinary education that integrates science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. The academy fosters innovation, critical thinking, and collaboration to prepare students for success in a rapidly changing world.