

WMST students compete in National SeaPerch Challenge underwater robotics program competition



Four students from WMST competed in the 2012 National SeaPerch Challenge, a second annual competition that pitted the WMST Panther Shark team against scores of schools from a dozen states and the District of Columbia. Prince William County Public Schools hosted the event at the Manassas Park Community Center in Manassas Park, Va., on April 11-13.

Ms. Vivienne Forrester, teacher and chairperson of WMST's Technology Department, served as moderator for the Panther Sharks, in addition Mr. Mohammad Nouristani, WMST PCHS science teacher. WMST PCHS students Bashaar Abul Qusim, Naje Crawford, Evan Polk, and Benjamin Stanfield competed as the Panther Sharks.

Funded by the Office of Naval Research, SeaPerch is an underwater robotics program that trains teachers to teach middle and high school students how to build an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) in an in-school or out-of-school setting. It was initially created in 2003 as the MIT SeaPerch Grant College Program to generate interest in underwater studies.

In the Interview and Poster Presentation, the Panther Sharks placed fourth. They also placed 26th in the Obstacle Course and 32nd in the Salvage competition, according to Ms. Forrester. This was the Panther Sharks' first year competing in the [National SeaPerch Challenge](#).

For more information, please contact [Ms. Vivienne Forrester](#) at 202-636-8011.