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## Students to face off at UCC for Science Olympiad

BY LAURIE LEVOY • STAFF WRITER • JANUARY 10, 2010

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**CENTRAL JERSEY** — Student teams fielded from middle and high schools statewide will take a day off Tuesday from their studies to compete in the regional level of the New Jersey Science Olympiad.

For the first time, the Cranford campus of Union County College will host the tournament -- a day-long event where teams and individuals vie to earn points by solving queries posed in the fields of biology, earth science, chemistry, physics, technology and problem solving.

Twenty-one middle school teams and 20 high school teams, each allowed to have 18 team members each, will rotate among classrooms that will pose various problems in subjects such as meteorology, the solar system, forensics, ecology, astronomy, anatomy, ornithology, among others, explained Nicole Torella, a spokeswoman at the college.

Ten winning middle and high school teams will continue on to the state level Olympiad.

"It's exciting to know that one or more of the teams that win Tuesday, Jan. 12 may go on to participate at higher levels of the competition," Torella said.

Initiated 27 years ago by Dr. Gerard Putz, iswear from Michigan and Dr. Jack Cains from Delaware to heighten interest in the sciences over and above the traditional school "science fair," the program now attracts more than 14,000 participating schools representing the United States, Mexico and Canada.

In addition to solving advanced science problems, the program emphasizes teamwork, group planning and cooperation among the support network of students, teachers, coaches, principals, parents and business partners necessary to reach competition level.

For more information about the Olympiad program, go to [www.njscienceolympiad.org](http://www.njscienceolympiad.org).

### AT A GLANCE

These area school teams are participating in NJ Science Olympiad.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOLS:

- Al-Minhaal Academy Middle School, Plainfield
- Carl Sandberg Middle School, Old Bridge
- Center Jersey College Preparatory Charter School, Somerset section of Franklin
- Churchill Jr. High School, East Brunswick
- Edison Intermediate School, Westfield
- Hammarskjold Middle School, East Brunswick
- Montgomery Upper Middle School, Skillman section of Montgomery
- New Providence Middle School
- Park Middle School, Scotch Plains
- Summit Middle School
- Terrill Middle School, Scotch Plains

#### HIGH SCHOOLS:

- Al-Minhaal Academy High School, Plainfield
- Bridgewater-Raritan Regional High School
- East Brunswick High School
- Hillsborough High School
- J.P. Stevens High School, Edison
- New Providence High School
- South Hunterdon Regional High School, West Amwell
- South Brunswick High School
- Spotswood High School
- Summit High School
- Union County Vocational-Technical High School, Scotch Plains
- Westfield High School

WHEN: Tuesday, Jan. 12

WHERE: Union County College, Cranford campus.

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