

DeWitt Technology Team Launches Crowdfunding Campaign

If you've ever visited the technology rooms at DeWitt Middle School, maybe you've noticed, high on a shelf overlooking the workbenches and equipment, a huge collection of gleaming trophies. There doesn't appear to be a lot of remaining space up there. But in a few short months, DeWitt's Technology Student Association (TSA) chapter is going to try to fill its groaning trophy shelf even more.

The DeWitt TSA group, led by faculty advisors David Buchner and Bob Walters, is sending a team to the National TSA Conference in Orlando in June. There, over 7,000 students from at least 49 states and several countries are expected to compete in over 30 events, ranging from website design to aeronautics to structural engineering to extemporaneous speech, and much more. Perennially, the DeWitt team performs extremely well, taking home numerous top-ten finishes and even two first-place finishes in the past four years (David Cheng in the promotional design event in 2015, and Francesca Chu in the technology essay competition in 2013).

Many of these events reinforce classroom teaching, but also help to expand and apply knowledge in more practical applications. All events focus on research and/or engineering in some way, but just as importantly, they emphasize teamwork, cooperation, and connection with real issues and needs in our society.

This conference, as well as other expenses such as materials and national TSA fees, require significant financial support. Team members' families contribute by far the largest share, but the TSA team also needs to raise funds in the community. To this end, the team has just launched a crowdfunding campaign.

If you can support the team, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/ihsdewitttsa17> by April 7, or send a check made out to the Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI), P. O. Box 4268, Ithaca NY 14852, noting "TSA" in the memo line of your check. Also, please spread the word to friends and colleagues. All donations are tax-deductible.

Thank you for your support!