

ExploraVision Makes Its 17th Call for Great Student Ideas

The Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards program, one of the world's largest K–12 science and technology competitions, encourages students of all interest, skill and ability level to create and explore a vision of future technology by combining their imaginations with the tools of science. ExploraVision, sponsored by Toshiba and administered by NSTA, challenges teams of two to four students in the United States and Canada to research scientific principles and current technologies as the basis for designing innovative technologies that could exist in 20 years. The competition is an excellent way for students to learn how to work in collaborative learning groups on an interdisciplinary project. Evelyn Mustanski meets with interested students in October to explain the program. Teams are formed and parents then take on roles guiding the students through the elements needing to be completed. Each team selects a technology (or an aspect of a technology) that is present in and relevant to their lives. The team explores what the technology does, how it works, how, when and why it was invented and imagines and explores what that technology could be like 20 years from now. Finally, each team prepares an in-depth report that conveys its vision to others

ExploraVision is now accepting entries for its 2009 competition. Now in its 17th year, ExploraVision has provided an opportunity for students to envision a better future while providing educators with a valuable tool for helping motivate their students to excel in science. Up to \$240,000 in savings bonds will be awarded this year to students whose innovative ideas combine imagination with the tools of science. The deadline for the competition is January 28, 2009. For more information or an application, visit www.exploravision.org or e-mail exploravision@nsta.org.

We have had teams from our school for many years. It is a valuable project but not a simple one. It does involve quite a bit of research, writing and creativity. If your child likes to find answers to their many questions and lists science as one of their favorite classes, then this might be for them. It is run entirely by parents. Student groups need to be more than one but no more than four. I can help guide you if you need that. If you are interested, please check out the website and see all that is involved. Teams can consist of different grade levels and also students that are not at our school.

