



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2120

RICHMOND 23218-2120

TO: Science Contact Persons

FROM: Eric M. Rhoades, Director
Office of Science and Health Education

DATE: September 7, 2014

SUBJECT: Virginia Junior Academy of Science

The Virginia Junior Academy of Science (VJAS) is a state chapter of the American Academy of Science. The VJAS is dedicated to the advancement of science and has been named a national model and ranked among the top three Junior Academies in the United States for over 25 years. It serves over 40,000 students per year in middle and high schools. The VJAS acts as an effective stimulus for scientific research by discovering and encouraging scientific aptitude. In developing a project, students learn how to conduct research, draw conclusions, and make public presentations. The VJAS also provides an opportunity for publishing, as well as awards and scholarship opportunities.

In order to help students continue to achieve the high standards that Virginia has adopted, mathematics and science programs around the Commonwealth are using many different teaching and learning resources. Relating mathematics and science concepts to practical applications and first-hand experiences are ways that many educators have found successful to improve student understanding. The VJAS is an example of how students can apply and develop more fully the standards-based concepts.

You may wish to share this information with mathematics and science teachers and other colleagues to consider how this educational opportunity can support your division's mathematics and science programs by expanding and promoting excellence in scientific education and literacy in Virginia.

For more information regarding the Virginia Junior Academy of Science, please visit www.vjas.org or contact Susan Booth, VJAS Director at susan.science@gmail.com.