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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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PHOTO CAPTION: The HJMS team of eighth graders Thomas Novy, Andrew Brewster, and Emma Dransfield, which won first place in the Obstacle Course competition, stand with US Navy sailors serving on the PCU *Vermont*. (Photo by Mark Harutunian)



PHOTO CAPTION: HJMS eighth graders Melissa Gallagher, Caroline Cordani, and Colin Russell placed first in the Challenge competition and second in the Obstacle Course. (Photo by Mark Harutunian)

## **HJMS SeaPerch Team to Dive Into National Competition**

SIMSBURY, CT— For the fourth time in five years, a team from Henry James Memorial School (HJMS) is headed for the national SeaPerch championships.

The Seventh National SeaPerch Challenge will be held on May 19-20, 2017, on the campus of Georgia Tech in Atlanta, Georgia. Teams are invited to national championships only after participating in and winning at a regional competition. Over 150 teams are expected to compete in a juried Engineering Notebook competition and two in-pool technical events with their underwater remotely operated vehicles (ROV s). During regional competition on March 9, 2017 at Plainville High School, the team of Thomas Novy, Andrew Brewster, and Emma Dransfield took first place in the Obstacle course; placing second in the Obstacle course and first in the Challenge course was the team of Melissa Gallagher, Caroline Cordani, and Colin Russell.

The goal of the SeaPerch Program is to create the next generation of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) professionals. The SeaPerch experience challenges students to learn STEM concepts in a hands on and fun way. Students build ROVs from a kit comprised of low-cost, easily accessible parts, following a curriculum that teaches basic engineering and science concepts with a marine engineering theme. Throughout the project, students learn engineering concepts, problem solving, teamwork, and technical applications.

For more information about the SeaPerch program, visit [www.seaperch.org](http://www.seaperch.org).

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