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More than 20 Missouri Academy students are moving on to a state level science competition.

The Missouri Academy students competed in the Science Olympiad competition and won first place overall Feb. 13.

The Missouri Science Olympiad Competition is a non-profit organization that operates under the National Science Olympiad. According to the Missouri Science Olympiad website, the National Science Olympiad is dedicated to improving the quality of science education, increasing interest in science, creating a technologically literate workforce and providing recognition for outstanding achievement by both students and teachers.

The Science Olympiad competition occurs once every year and includes events in areas of science such as chemistry, physics, and biology. Various teams of two to three students come together to compete in different events. Competitions start at the regional level and teams that place first at regionals move to the state competition.

The competition is a combination of speed and ability to finish tasks. The teams practice together and individually to prep for the competition. They also tend to have a good idea of what they will be tested on. At the competition, the teams are scored individually. At the end of the day, all the teams from the schools are scored up together to figure out which school won overall.

This year, the regional competition was here at Northwest, meaning more students were able to participate. Seven different schools came to the Science Olympiad competition. The Missouri Academy won first place overall. The state competition will be held April 9 at Westminster College.

Some of the other schools will have instructors who specialize in preparing the students for the competition. Instructors at the Missouri Academy do not prep the students, however students at the academy take more advanced courses than most of the other schools they compete against.

The Dean of the Missouri Academy Cleo Samudzi thinks that it is important for the students to be involved in things other than just strictly school.

“I look at what is good for the students, and this is good for their mental health,” Samudzi said. “They get to do something they enjoy with peers.”

There are a variety of other competitions the Missouri Academy students have the opportunity to participate in. Later in the spring, there will be a Mathematics Olympiad competition. There is a Model UN competition in which students simulate running the United Nations. Other competitions include Envirothon, Robotics, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Beta Club Competition.

<http://www.nwmissouri.edu/media/news/2016/02/15academyscienceolympiad.htm>