

# Assumption Middle-School Popsicle-Stick Bridge Contest



During Catholic School's standardized Terra Nova test week, Middle School students participated in a Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Popsicle-Stick Bridge Building contest. Students working in teams planned, designed, built, tested and evaluated their bridges. They were challenged with a goal of using 100 or less popsicle-sticks and glue to build bridges that met the following specifications:

- Be at least 17 inches long.
- Be at least 3.5 inches wide.
- Provide safe transit for a self-propelled toy car.
- Be neat, well-assembled and aesthetically appealing.
- Be able to support a minimum weight load of 10 lbs.



Applying engineering principles, their design estimates and math, students predicted the expected weight of their bridges and how much weight their bridges could support. Teams constructing bridges closest to their estimates were awarded more points in the final evaluation. A final evaluation was conducted to determine which team's bridge best met specifications and was capable of the highest weight supporting capacity. The top performing bridges weighed in at about 0.25 lbs. and were able to support a weight load exceeding 110 lbs. The winning teams were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Bobettes (C. Belsito & A. Giorgio) - 159 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Dream Crushers (C. Bronte & A. Houssan) - 146 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Salt Water Turtles (L. Belsito & C. Mahoney) - 141 points

