

Every day in YourTown, we spotlight a different Lorain County community:

TODAY: Avon/Avon Lake

TUESDAY: Amherst/Vermillion/South Amherst

WEDNESDAY: Wellington/Oberlin

THURSDAY: North Ridgeville

FRIDAY: Grafton/LaGrange/Columbia

SATURDAY: Lorain/Sheffield/Sheffield Lake

SUNDAY: Elyria/Elyria Township

YOURTOWN AVON & AVON LAKE

Page

C3

Monday,
March 20,
2017

WWW.CHRONICLET.COM

Students' robot skills on display at school board meeting

Jon Wysochanski

The Chronicle-Telegram

AVON LAKE — Students showed off their robotic skills at a Tuesday meeting of the Avon Lake Board of Education.

The demonstration came on the heels of a recent two-part competition that put students' science, technology, engineering, math, art and design skills to the test.

Fourth- through sixth-graders competed in the countywide competition known as STEAM-24, which is sponsored by the Educational Service Center of Lorain County Gifted Consortium.

More than 300 students from eight school districts in Lorain and Erie counties, including Amherst, Avon Lake, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, North Ridgeville, Oberlin and Perkins, were present.

The STEAM portion of the competition involved science, technology, engineering, art and design and mathematics students developing a Sphero robot identity, preparing a Sphero habitat, navigating the Sphero geometric golf course, engaging in an oral presentation and coding Sphero robots to make basic turns and

runs.

The other aspect of the competition is the 24 Game, which is where players use rapid-speed addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to be the first to arrive at a solution that equals 24. Students may use multiple steps and multiple properties to arrive at the number and must be the first at their table to do so to advance to the next level.

Pam Geraci, a teacher at Troy Intermediate School, coached Avon Lake's sixth-grade team, which won the overall competition.

Geraci said students write code for the Spheros device in order to manipulate angles and speeds so the device can navigate a course in which every path equates to points.

Geraci said use of the Spheros and participation in the competition is an excellent way to build problem-solving skills while making challenging science and math concepts fun.

"They work in groups of four, practice and write code for over a month," Geraci said. "It's something they really enjoy."

Contact Jon Wysochanski at 329-7123 or jwysochanski@chroniclet.com.



KRISTIN BAUER / CHRONICLE

Eastview Elementary School students demonstrate the mobile application-controlled robot Spheros on Tuesday at the Avon Lake Board of Education meeting.