



## THE BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL PRESS RELEASE

September 14, 2011

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### **Birchwood School Receives the Governor's Award for Second Consecutive Year**

Cleveland—On September 9, 2011 **The Birchwood School** science teacher **Linda Brown**, and math teacher, **Charles Debelak**, were the sole Cleveland recipients of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Youth Science Opportunities for a second year in a row. The Ohio Academy of Science selected 48 Ohio schools and 265 teachers to receive Governor's Awards for Excellence in Youth Science Opportunities for their accomplishments during the 2010-2011 school year.

To qualify for the Governor's Award, each school conducted a local science fair with 20 or more students, sent one or more of these students to one of the Academy's 15 district science days, involved students in one or more youth science opportunities beyond the classroom such as State Science Day, visits to museums, mentorship programs and an extended field trip, and convince external reviewers from business and industry, government and academia how and to what extent the school's program met the Academy's definition of STEM education.

In March of this year, **Brown** conducted a local science fair involving 23 students. Two of these students, **Dhweeja D and Vinayak K**, received superior ratings at the district level and advanced to the Ohio State Science Day where they also turned out superior ratings. Students also participated in the Northeast Ohio Science and Engineering Fair, and The Best Science and Engineering Fair and won numerous awards.

In addition to these achievements, **Brown** and her students participated in Science Olympiads, National Chemistry Week Experiments, Young Astronaut Day, as well as taking part in a four day program at the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Center.

The extensive opportunities and awards of the Birchwood Math program were included in the commendation. "Receiving a Governor's Award for Excellence sends a clear signal that these schools and teachers value student-originated, inquiry-based science education as outlined in the Ohio Science Education Standards and in the National Science Education Standards," said Lyn Elfner, the Academy's CEO. "Whole new worlds of opportunities open up to students when they complete research or technological design projects."



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The Birchwood School is a private, coeducational school in Cleveland, Ohio. Founded in 1984, Birchwood serves students in kindergarten through grade 8. Birchwood's mission is to provide an educational setting where challenging academics build solid work habits, an achievement culture nurtures healthy attitudes, and a caring environment forges social responsibility.

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