

Contraptions competition compels creativity



Courtesy of Waukesha County Technical College

Team Madrigals, made up of Keira Hughes (7th grade), Keira Lancelle-Bates (7th grade) and Daria Tolkachova (8th grade), created a machine with a movie theme of Encanto. They had 14 steps in their ribbon-cutting machine. They are from STEM Academy in Waukesha.

County students construct contraptions at WCTC

PEWAUKEE — Waukesha County Technical College hosted STEM Forward’s Contrapt Wisconsin middle school contraption competition on Friday.

The “contraption” competition is where students build a machine to accomplish a simple task in a fun, complicated and complex way. It gives students the chance to work on skills involving engineering, simple machines, trial and error, project planning, physics, teamwork and creativity. WCTC has held similar competitions on campus in the past (pre-pandemic) and is eager to welcome middle schoolers back to campus to help them hone their science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills and encourage them to pursue careers in STEM-related fields.

Members of WCTC’s faculty acted as professional engineer volunteer judges.



The Eisenhower students working together to put the finishing touches on their machine.

Competition

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1st place – New Berlin Eisenhower Middle School – Nebula team

2nd place – New Berlin Eisenhower Middle School – Knights of the Round Table team

3rd place – New Berlin Eisenhower Middle School – Funtopia team

4th place – Waukesha STEM Academy – LLS Beauty Salon team

5th place – Waukesha STEM Academy – Madrigals team

Schools/districts that participated included:

- Kiel Middle School (four teams)
- New Berlin Eisenhower Middle School (four teams)
- Waukesha STEM Academy – Saratoga Campus (eight teams)
- Wheatland Center School - Burlington (four teams)

