

## Reasons & Considerations for the Reorganization

### 1. To insure greater fairness to all age groups.

- ◆ Separate middle school (MS) and high school (HS) categories were created.
- ◆ The number of MS and HS sections will be adjusted to insure an equal acceptance rate for MS and HS students.
- ◆ MS and HS sections will have the same awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and three HRs.
- ◆ MS and HS winners will both present to the VAS.

### 2. To create more equal competition.

- ◆ Smaller categories were combined to ensure competition at the Reader Level in all categories.
- ◆ All sections at the Symposium are expected to be full (18-22) to help equalize the chances of winning.
- ◆ This will allow us to use our resources most effectively.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Will paper submission remain the same?

- ◆ Yes, the due dates and other paper requirements will be the same.
- ◆ Yes, the forms will be the same, but with no separate math/stat forms.

### 2. Can 7th and 8th graders submit a paper to a HS category? No, and HS students can't submit a paper to a MS category

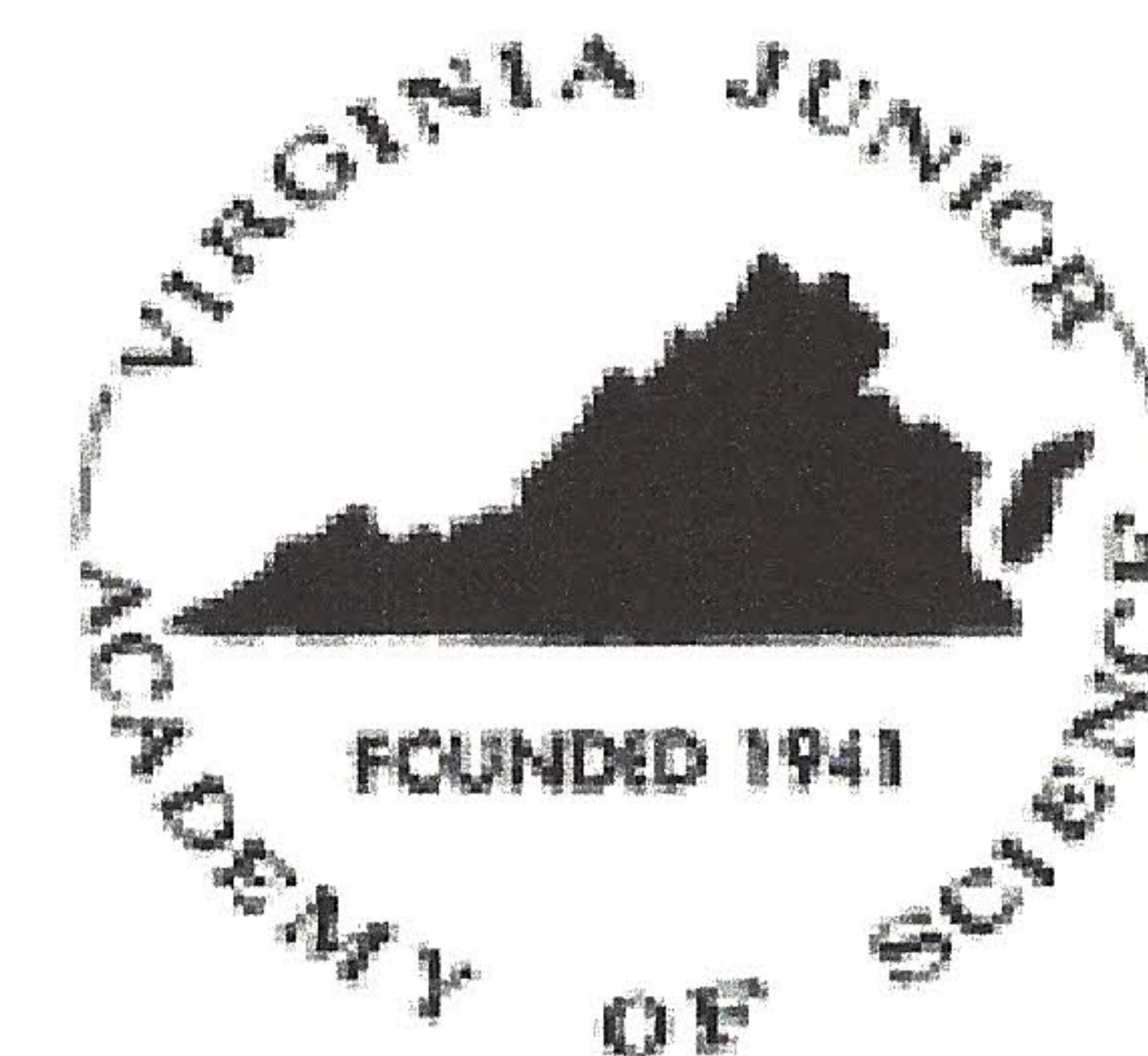
### 3. Will the Annual Meeting be run any differently? No. There will no visible difference between the MS and HS presentations.

### 4. Will there be Special Awards for both MS and HS students? Yes, with some restrictions.

Direct other Questions to:  
**Susan Booth**  
([Susan.Science@gmail.com](mailto:Susan.Science@gmail.com)), or  
the **VJAS Office** ([vas@smv.org](mailto:vas@smv.org))

**Include in the subject line:**  
"2012 Symposium Question"

## The Virginia Junior Academy of Science



is Excited to Announce  
a Reorganization.

Beginning in 2012

the Research  
Symposium

(formerly called the Annual Meeting)

will be divided  
into separate  
Middle School and  
High School  
Categories.

## New Middle School Categories (Grades 7–8)

### **PLANT & CELLULAR SCIENCES**

The study of plants and plant life, the study of cells and cellular processes, and the study of microorganisms.

### **ANIMAL & HUMAN SCIENCES**

The study of all animals and animal life, the study of Mendelian genetics, and the study of diagnosing, treating and preventing disease.

### **BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

The study of the behavior of living things, including humans.

### **ECOLOGY/EARTH SCIENCES**

The study of the environment alone and/or the interactions of living things with the environment and the study of the earth, structure of the earth and sciences related to the earth.

### **PHYSICAL SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS**

The study of matter and energy and the interaction between the two, the study of the practical application of the design, materials, construction, and operation of physical systems, and any study relating to mathematics, statistics or computer programming.

### **CHEMICAL SCIENCE**

The study of matter, its properties and the changes it undergoes.

## Revised High School Categories (Grades 9–12)

### **ANIMAL BEHAVIOR & GENETICS**

The study of the description, observation, and experimentation of the behavior of all animals, excluding humans. This also includes any investigation concerned with aspects of Mendelian or molecular genetics including genomics and bioinformatics.

### **BOTANY**

The study of plants.

### **CHEMISTRY**

The study of the composition, structure, properties and reactions of matter, especially of atomic and molecular systems.

### **ENGINEERING**

The application of scientific and mathematical principles to practical ends such as the design, materials, construction, and operation of efficient and economical physical systems.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

The study of the effects resulting from the natural and/or man-made environment or effects from pollution factors. This also includes the study of the history of the earth, structure of the earth and its environment including archeology, geology, meteorology, oceanography, and paleontology.

## Revised High School Categories (cont.)

### **MATHEMATICS, STATISTICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE**

The studies of problems in all mathematical areas; pure and applied statistics; and computers, computer programs, and programming.

### **MEDICINE & HEALTH**

The study of the various sciences related to structure, function, and diseases of humans and laboratory animals.

### **MICROBIOLOGY & CELL BIOLOGY**

The study of microorganisms (bacteria, protozoans, algae, and fungi); and the study of the cellular and subcellular levels involving chemistry, biochemistry and molecular biology.

### **PHYSICS**

The study of inanimate matter and energy relationships exclusive of chemical change. This also includes astronomy, the study of the science of the stars, planets, galaxies, and all other heavenly bodies, including the exploration of space by manned and unmanned space craft.

### **PSYCHOLOGY**

The study of all aspects of human thought processes and behavior.

### **ZOOLOGY**

The study of invertebrates and vertebrates except for microorganisms.