The Jersey City Public Schools announces a virtual pitch event in partnership with the Jersey City Office of Sustainability in support of the Sustainability STEAM Challenge.

This year’s Districtwide Sustainability STEAM Challenge educates students Grades K-12 on environmental issues with a focus on Climate Action.

JERSEY CITY, NJ – May 20, 2020 – The Jersey City Public Schools has announced that it will hold a virtual pitch event for their annual Sustainability STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) Challenge. Sixteen student teams in grades 3-12 from across the district will pitch their solutions to a panel of district officials and local stakeholders on May 28th and 29th, 2020.

In their third annual collaboration, the Jersey City Public Schools Curriculum and Instruction Department and the Jersey City Office of Sustainability have partnered on a Sustainability STEAM Challenge structured as Problem-based learning (PBL) that uses Science, Math, and the Arts to address environmental issues. Stacy Feszchak, Supervisor of Performing Arts for the Jersey City Public Schools explains, “The inclusion of the arts, both visual and performing, along with the sciences and math, accesses both sides of the human brain. This inspires greater creativity and opens the door for innovative thought”.

This year the topic is Climate Action. This citywide initiative is offered to all students Grades K-12.

Students in grades K-2 have been participating in a Flag Design Challenge which targets Jersey City’s youngest learners by showcasing their understanding of the issues surrounding climate action and their creativity to promote greenspaces.

Students in Grades 3-12 are exploring issues related to climate action with a critical lens and have been challenged to create and present solutions to sustainability-related challenges they identified in their own neighborhoods. Team prototypes and solutions were supported through a generous donation from The New York Academy of the Sciences. Students participating in this event will be recognized in the categories of most innovative solution, strongest community outreach, most creative presentation and best overall project. Distribution of awards will be announced via the Jersey City Public School’s website the following week.
“Having our students at the forefront of taking action against climate change has never been more important. The Sustainability STEAM challenge affords our young, global citizens the opportunity to have a voice in effecting change,” says Albert Padilla, K - 8 Science Supervisor for the Jersey City Public Schools.

**Media Contact**
[Dr. Norma Fernandez-Deputy Superintendent]
Jersey City Public Schools
[nfernandez2@jcboe.org]