

# BELLEVUE

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## Saint Henry seventh-graders win

By **Lea Ann Overstreet Allen**  
THE TENNESSEAN

Saint Henry seventh grade students, Mark Carden, Nick Gould and Ben Holzmer have envisioned a type of body armor that would better protect soldiers.

The students' imaginative project has earned them a spot among the 2009 regional winners of the 17th annual Toshiba and National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) ExploraVision Awards Program. The competition asks students to imagine ideas for technologies that could exist in 20 years.

The boys' idea resulted in the Screen Immigrated Camouflage, or S.I.C., a camouflage body armor that would use computer imaging and a full body protective suit to protect soldiers in combat.

The S.I.C. camouflage body armor would adapt to any changing

environment to provide increased protection in military situations. The bulletproof, waterproof, form-fitting gelatin-like body armor screen is wired to a computer that contains maps and other environmental data that control the instantaneous change in screen design.

"We had to study the history of Kevlar and do a lot of research," Nick said.

In true young man fashion, the students all agreed on what was one of the best parts of participating in the project.

"We got to miss some classes," Ben said.

Sponsored by Toshiba and administered by the NSTA, the ExploraVision program is one of the world's largest K-12 science and technology competitions. This year, the program received 4,388 team entries representing the participation of 13,774 students from across

the U.S. and Canada.

"The program asks students to develop solutions to how our society can do things better and more efficiently through science and technology," said Francis Eberle, executive director, NSTA. "That's the essence of science, coming up with good questions and exploring possible answers through creativity and hard work."

For the regional win, each student received a portable DVD player and the school received a Toshiba laptop, which the students will use to work on their Web site detailing their project.

The Saint Henry team will submit its Web site for national judging in May with hopes of winning the competition, which includes a trip to Washington, D.C., for a gala awards weekend in June.

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Three Saint Henry students are 2009 regional winners of the 17th annual Toshiba/National Science Teachers Association ExploraVision Awards Program. Toshiba Vice President Brian Pollock presents students Nick Gould, Ben Holzmer and Mark Carden and their coach, Brian Knoop, with plaques during a ceremony held at the school. LEA ANN OVERSTREET ALLEN / THE TENNESSEAN