Science Olympiad is a science based team competition held nationally each year. The Virginia Science Olympiad (VASO) organization administers this competition in Virginia. VASO offers students the opportunity to improve their understanding in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and to work together in teams to learn new skills and deeply explore science concepts. VASO is a non-profit organization engaging and challenging students in these disciplines through team-based competitive tournaments in Virginia. VASO seeks to inspire a passion for science and technology in Virginia’s students through collaboration and teamwork, hands-on experiences, variety and creativity in topics and skills, and fun and rewarding tournaments.

A maximum of two teams (up to 15 participants per team) for the Division B 2016/17 competition will be allowed to represent Langston Hughes Middle School (LHMS). A broad timeline for the competition is as follows:

- Invitational Tournament at Lanier Middle School - Saturday December 10, 2016.
- Regional Tournaments - either Sunday February 12th at George Mason University or Saturday February 25th at Fairfax High School. LHMS will attend one of these.
- State Tournament - Saturday March 25th at University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

Once a student has joined the team they will be expected to attend all tournaments as the team earns scores based on EVERY team member’s performance. Not being able to attend a meet will adversely affect the team’s performance. Given the amount of preparation required, it is impossible to fill a team members position at the last minute.

If LHMS qualifies for the State competition only one team will be allowed to participate. The best performing team members/pairs from our regional competition will be selected to participate at the State level.

Should your child choose to participate, this will be a year-long commitment. Your child will work with a partner and will be assigned 3 to 4 topics (events) from the list of potential topics below to study with their partner in preparation for the competitions. Study outlines and event information will be provided to us by VASO. Some events are study/test based while others (referred to as “building events”) require the pair to construct a device based on given parameters prior to competition and then test the device in front of judges on competition day. The study content is deep and rich and the tournaments are challenging yet fun. The expectation is that your child will be responsible for gathering appropriate study materials along with their study partner, researching relevant content and referring to both VASO and National Science Olympiad (NSO)’s website for relevant content, clarification and materials. It is recommended that each pair be coached/guided by one parent as necessary. Our LHMS science and technology teachers are available for guidance. An after school study schedule for late bus days and teacher contact list will be provided upon
registration. If your child would like to work with someone specific please specify his or her preferred partner’s name in the registration form and ensure that person also fills in a registration form. If no partner is specified, he/she will be assigned one by our sponsor teachers. In fairness to the team and your child’s partner, it is imperative that once your child registers for VASO and is assigned their events that he/she is committed for the duration of the VASO events.

Science topics (events) for this year’s competition are as follows:

- Anatomy & Physiology (Endocrine System, Sense Organs and Nervous System)
- Ecology
- Hovercraft
- Crime Busters
- Disease Detectives (Dynamic Planet (Tectonics))
- Experimental Design
- Fast Facts
- Food Science
- Invasive Species
- Meteorology
- Mission Possible (Building)
- Microbe Mission
- Optics
- Rocks and Minerals
- Reach for the Stars
- Road Scholar
- Scrambler (Building)
- Towers
- Wind Power (Building)
- Write It-Do It
- Wright Stuff (Building)

Please note that a short description of each event is available at www.soinc.org. More detailed event parameters will be provided to us once we register our team. Please visit http://www.virginiaso.com/ for more information. You can also email sqbazaz@yahoo.com.

Once teams and pairs are formed we will inform you of the after school time set aside for students to prepare. We estimate that students should assign one or two days per week after school for preparation. There will be some flexibility in days.

Spaces are limited to 30 team members and will be based on a first come first served basis. If you and your child are interested in participating, please complete the form below and return with the registration fee to Mr. Franklin Kyle by Monday October 17, 2016.

Registration Fee: $35 (payable to Langston Hughes Middle School). Please reference VASO 2016/17 and write check number on the application form. If you are paying by cash indicate cash on the form.

We are looking forward to working with your children.

Sameera Bazaz 703-437 5659
Vish Vishwanathan 703-203-1805

*Building – Note these events are building/ engineering events.
REGISTRATION FORM 2016/2017

Student Name: _____________________________________________________

Grade Level: _______________________________________________________

Name of enrolling parent: _____________________________________________

Parent Email:_______________________________________________________

Home Address:_____________________________________________________

Phone #: _________________________________________________________

Preferred Partner/s: ________________________________________________

Have you participated in SO before? _________

If so, which Division and what events did you participate in?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Top 5 preferred topics of study (from VASO events list):

1.____________________________________________________________________

2.____________________________________________________________________

3.____________________________________________________________________

4.____________________________________________________________________

5.____________________________________________________________________

I would like my child to participate in LHMS’s Virginia SO Team. I understand that this is a full year commitment for my child and that their place on the team is contingent upon good behavior and commitment to the study/ preparation requirements.

I have enclosed my registration of $35 (please make checks payable to Langston Hughes Middle School).

Signed:______________________________________________________________