

SOUTH PLAINFIELD Students discover real-world science

Earlier this month when Holy Savior Academy students stepped up to the podium at the Liberty Science Center to present their scientific findings to researchers at the Project Converge symposium, it marked the end of a journey of discovery that began in September.

Project Converge is a National Science Foundation program designed to show students in grades 6 to 9 how

science is applied in the real world. The program is a collaborative one, with students and scientists working together to collect and analyze data.

The Holy Savior students worked remotely with scientists stationed in Antarctica who were researching penguins and climate change. The students chose a testable question for their investigation. Among the investigations were finding the best way to purify water using household items, discovering whether ammonium in the ocean affects the

number of summer flounder and if the air temperature changes the sea surface salinity.

Teacher Jennifer Durkin chose three groups of students to bring their projects to the symposium.

"I'm doing this so they see science in action," said Durkin. "Students often think of science as a crazy chemist in the lab, but there is so much to it than that. I want for them to think that 'maybe I want to be the one who counts the penguins.'



Holy Savior Academy sixth-grader Kaitlyn Adlassnig explains her science project for a museum videographer at the Liberty Science Center Project Converge symposium.

