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***‘Protecting Public Health and the Environment’***

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## **St. Dominic Academy Students Visit PVSC Lab**



**Newark, NJ** – The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) hosted students from the St. Dominic Academy (Jersey City) for Lab Day this week. The primary objective of the event was to showcase various careers within the sciences, raise awareness of the important role labs play in society, and specifically educate the students regarding lab procedures and responsibilities.

Founded in 1878 and in its current location (2572 John F. Kennedy Boulevard) since 1942, St. Dominic Academy is a college preparatory school for girls from Grades 7 through 12. The school boasts a rigorous academic curriculum, including honors and advanced placement courses. Their mission is “empowering young women for leadership.” Many of their students are planning to pursue a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) major in college.

PVSC provided each student with safety glasses and a lab coat. Students then broke into groups and visited various work stations that were led by either a chemist or a lab technician. Students were exposed to what transpires in the lab on a daily basis by observing several wastewater analyses and having the hands-on opportunity to perform the analyses themselves. They also learned about safety procedures in the laboratory and about the state and federal regulations PVSC observes. In addition to visiting the lab,

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students were taken on an extensive, plant-wide tour. They will also heard presentations from several members of the PVSC management team.

“We are all surrounded by water every day, but we don’t really think about what happens to water after it goes down the drain,” said St. Dominic sophomore Emily Perri. “It was interesting to learn about the many ways wastewater is tested, filtered and treated here.”

“We learned a lot,” added Elyse Sanchez, another sophomore. “The hands on experience and being actively involved in the experiments was really beneficial.”

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***In order to protect and preserve local streams and rivers from water pollution, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission operates one of the country's oldest and largest treatment plants for the wastewaters of northern New Jersey, serving nearly 1.5 million people in parts of five counties.***