



Seneca Valley School District Press Release

For Immediate Release

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<photo attached: Decathlon Team Members from L-R: Coach David Reichard, Evan MacInerney, Rohin Jayaraman, Kaia Satory, Gavin Cress, Michael Kravec, Heath Lyon, Ophelia Crano, Sarah Ghaffar and Dhiyasri Gopalakrishnan.

SENECA VALLEY STUDENTS PLACE 3rd AT THE UNITED STATES ACADEMIC DECATHLON NATIONAL COMPETITION AND SET NEW SCHOOL RECORD

JACKSON TOWNSHIP, PA (May 9, 2025) – The Seneca Valley Academic Decathlon team placed third in the nation and earned 23 individual national medals at the 2025 United States Academic Decathlon® National Competition held in Des Moines, Iowa. Competing against top schools across the country, the team set a new SV Academic Decathlon record with a historic team score of 45,497.3 — the highest ever achieved by Seneca Valley!

This milestone also marks Seneca Valley's first United States Academic Decathlon National Banner, which is awarded to the top three teams.

Students spent months preparing after school, studying the 2024–2025 theme "Our Changing Climate." They competed in 10 rigorous academic events including Literature, Mathematics, Art, Economics, Science, Social Science, Music, Essay, Speech and Interview. Every team member was required to participate in all 10 disciplines, making this one of the most well-rounded and demanding academic competitions in the country.

In addition to placing third in the nation, the following students won individual medals:

- Ophelia Crano: silver in Art and bronze in Essay
- Rohin Jayaraman: gold in Literature, Music, Mathematics, Art, Social Science and overall highest scorer in the country; bronze in Science and Interview
- Kaia Satory: gold in Literature and Art and bronze in Speech and Essay
- Heath Lyon: gold in Music and Art and silver in Literature and Mathematics
- Michael Kravec: gold in Mathematics
- Sarah Ghaffar: gold in Interview and bronze in Essay
- Gavin Cress: silver in Economics and Speech

The Seneca Valley Academic Decathlon team members include Evan MacInerney, Rohin Jayaraman, Kaia Satory, Gavin Cress, Michael Kravec, Heath Lyon, Ophelia Crano, Sarah Ghaffar and Dhiyasri Gopalakrishnan.

"These nine students demonstrated extraordinary dedication, putting in countless hours of studying, taking practice tests, practicing speeches, writing essays and completing interviews," said Seneca Valley Senior High School Teacher and Academic Decathlon coach Mr. David Reichard. "As their coach, I couldn't be prouder of their growth, teamwork, and performance on the national stage."

If students are interested in joining the team for the next school year, they can email Mr. Reichard at reicharddj@svsd.net.