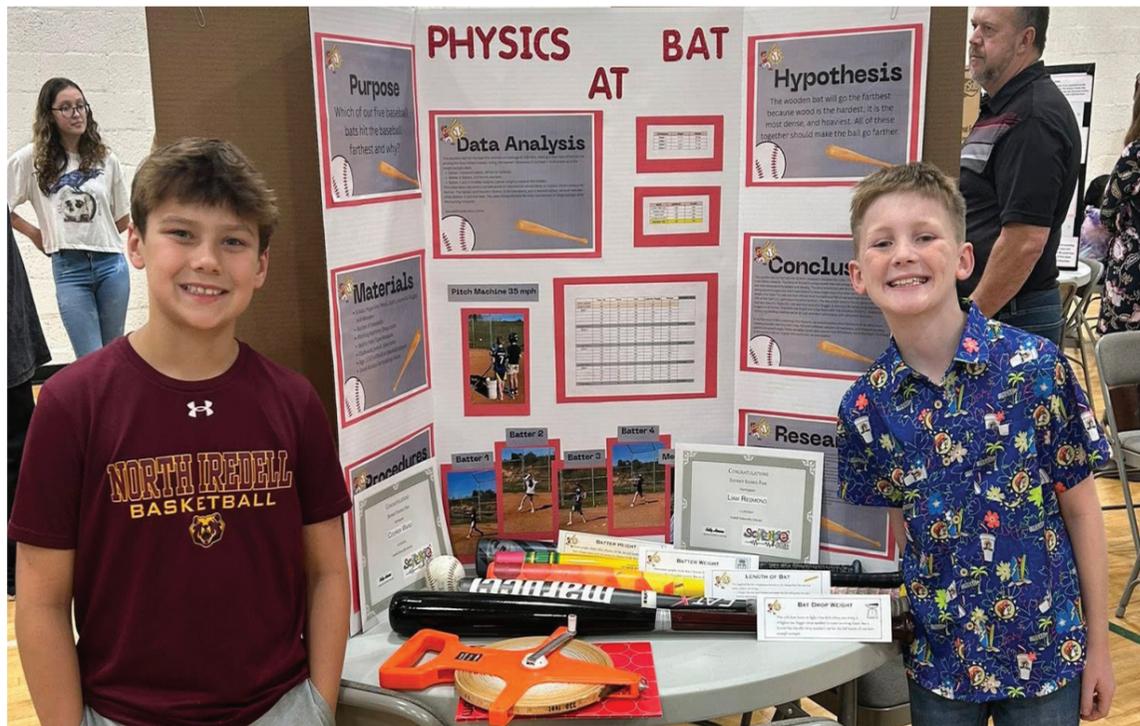


EdMatters

From Hypothesis to High Honors: Science Fair Celebrates Student Discovery



Cooper Ward and Liam Redmond from Union Grove Elementary pose at their project called "Physics at Bat."

The Unity Center was filled with created projects on Thursday, November 20, as young scientists from across the district gathered to showcase their big ideas at the annual district-wide science fair.

From solar-powered inventions to experiments exploring plant growth, students from elementary to high school proudly represented their schools with both board displays and digital presentations. Each of the 95 projects reflected hours of research and creativity, covering topics in Biology, Chemistry, Engineering, Environmental Science, Technology, Physics, and Mathematics.

"My project answered a couple questions. Some of them were: Are the nanoparticles more effective on gram-positive or gram-negative bacteria? And which is the most effective concentration of nanoparticles? And also, how do the nanoparticles compare against antibiotics in terms of inhibiting bacterial growth?" said tenth-grader Anish Banerjee. Like all participants, Anish submitted a recorded interview to explain his methods, results, and what he learned.

Kelly Hinson, Director of AIG and IB, praised the event: "The science fair is more than a competition—it's a celebration of curiosity, innovation, and student voice. It helps our students grow as researchers and communicators."

Judges evaluated each project's scientific method, originality, and presentation quality. This year's district winners now move forward to represent Iredell-Statesville Schools in the virtual regional science fair this coming January. The community is invited to support and congratulate these young innovators as they continue their journey.

Elementary School Winners:

- Gold**
 Julieta Sanchez Cardona, East Iredell Elementary
 Keya Kolekar, Lake Norman Elementary
 Kennedy James, Troutman Elementary
 Saxton Upright, Central Elementary
 Maddox Warren and Wyatt York, Cool Spring Elementary
 Avery Parker, Scotts Elementary

Silver

- Lucas Garcia, Clayton Phillips, and David Marin Arango, East Iredell Elementary
 Maia Stevenson and Emerson Walker, East Iredell Elementary
 Rithvik Srikanth, Lake Norman Elementary
 Spencer Meier, Lakeshore Elementary
 Cooper Ward and Liam Redmond, Union Grove Elementary
 Kaleb Epps, Shepherd Elementary

Bronze

- Austyn Holshouser, Troutman Elementary
 Aayansh Khandelwal, Coddle Creek Elementary
 Isaac Smith, Union Grove Elementary
 Ralphie Kennedy, Troutman Elementary
 Wyatt Gant, Union Grove Elementary
 Kepley Arnette and Lyle Seuss, Cool Spring Elementary

Middle and High School Winners:

- Biological Sciences A**
 Gold - Anish Banerjee, South Iredell High
 Gold - Varshitha Gopalakrishnan Swathika and Sahasra Nagaraja, The Brawley School
 Silver - Charlie Garland, Oakwood Middle
 Bronze - Jaxon Tessier, Troutman Middle

Biological Sciences B

- Gold - Harini Jayakumar, The Brawley School
 Silver - Aminta Noble, South Iredell High
 Bronze - Ella Barlament and Brynlee Ellis, Troutman Middle

Chemistry

- Gold - Advait Sudev, South Iredell High

- Silver - Aryah Sharma, The Brawley School
 Bronze - Brayden Carney and Alexander Sando, Troutman Middle

Earth and Environmental

- Gold - Advaita Nithin, iAcademy/CATS
 Silver - Samritha Kumar, The Brawley School
 Bronze - Thanvi Majeti and Daya Raghava, The Brawley School

Engineering

- Gold - Raghav Garg, The Brawley School
 Silver - Ishika Banerjee, The Brawley School
 Bronze - Nicholas Moore, South Iredell High

Mathematics

- Gold - Lakshmanan Annamalai, The Brawley School
 Silver - Obed Nayak, The Brawley School

Physics

- Gold - Aarav Talaviya, The Brawley School
 Silver - Lakshya Ganesh and TJ Donbosco, The Brawley School
 Bronze - Garrett Loftis, North Iredell Middle

Technology

- Gold - Serah Ann Mobin, Lake Norman High
 Silver - Aaryan Mansukhani, The Brawley School
 Bronze - Pooja Suresh, South Iredell High

To view more photos from the science fair, visit the Iredell-Statesville Schools Facebook page

Former Student Returns to Visit Her Art Mentor at Troutman



Mrs. Huffines, teacher at Troutman Middle School, welcomed a special visitor to her classroom—Ms. Lydia Wicklow, a former high school student and current art education student teacher from Appalachian State University.

Set to graduate this December, Ms. Wicklow has spent the semester teaching at Holly Grove Elementary in Wake County. She returned to spend the day with Mrs. Huffines, reconnecting and gaining insight into the dynamics of a middle school art class.

It was a joy having Ms. Wicklow at Troutman Middle and we wish her all the best as she embarks on her journey as a future art educator!

We Proudly Support the Iredell-Statesville Schools!



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1030 Gateway Crossing Dr
 I-77 Exit 49-B
 704-873-3673

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