



Discovery

GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Three Students Named Regeneron STS Scholars

Science research continues to thrive in the Great Neck Public Schools, as three students have been named 2026 Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS) Scholars. Great Neck North High School seniors Sophia Li and Kian Soleymani and Great Neck South High School senior Arnav Pemmaraju are among the top 300 Scholars in the country's most prestigious science competition.

"We are incredibly proud of our three Regeneron Scholars and their science research advisors," Superintendent Dr. Kenneth R. Bossert said. "I applaud our Scholars for their passion and perseverance, as well as their mentors, families and teachers who supported them throughout the discovery process."

Great Neck's Scholars are among 300 semifinalists nationwide, selected from an applicant pool of nearly 2,600 entrants. Each Scholar will receive \$2,000 with a matching amount for

their school. Scholars and their project titles are:

- Sophia Li, North High: "Closing the Shade Gap: Advancing Environmental Equity Through Understanding Tree Canopy Disparities in Redlined Communities With i-Tree"
- Arnav Pemmaraju, South High: "CRE-LogicSim: A Surrogate Modeling Framework for Interpreting Cis-Regulatory Element Function in Deep Sequence Models"
- Kian Soleymani, North High: "AI-Powered Conversational Tool for Early Stage Cognitive Decline"

North High science research faculty members include Christopher Bambino, John Cimilluca, Catherine Leong, Alison Widawsky and senior research advisor Jessica York, who also serves as North High science department chair, North High research director and districtwide science research facilitator. South High science

research faculty members include senior research advisors Loriana Demirciyan, Nicole Spinelli and Dr. James Truglio, and the South High science department chair is Courtney Knacke.

On January 30, our high school science research programs joined together to host a reception to celebrate the impressive accomplishments of our Regeneron STS Scholars. Board of Education trustees, district and building administrators, science research faculty, and local elected officials attended the special event to applaud our three Scholars and their families.

Follow Our High School Science Programs on Instagram!



North High Science
@northhighscience



South High Science
@southhighscience

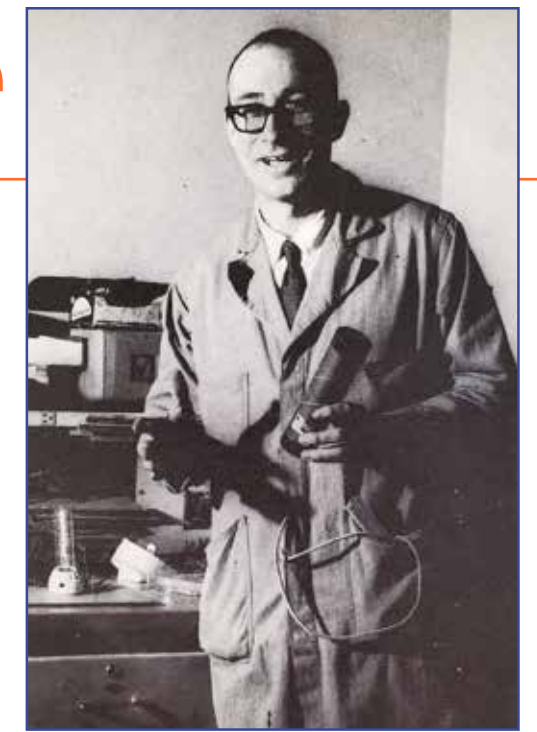


(Standing, L-R) Courtney Knacke, Dr. James Truglio, Loriana Demirciyan and Nicole Spinelli congratulate South High School's Regeneron STS Scholar Arnav Pemmaraju (seated).



(Standing, L-R) Christopher Bambino, Alison Widawsky, Jessica York, John Cimilluca and Catherine Leong congratulate North High School's Regeneron STS Scholars Sophia Li and Kian Soleymani (seated).

Building on a Tradition of Scientific Excellence



Lewis E. Love

This year, the district introduced a new Districtwide Science Research Facilitator position, further strengthening Great Neck's exceptional science research programs at both the middle and high school levels.

Serving in this role for its inaugural year is Jessica York, the science department chair and research director at North High School. The facilitator works alongside our science research teachers, students and science

department chairs, to support research experiences across the district.

This position is made possible through the Lewis E. Love Science Education Fund, established by the Great Neck North Class of 1963.

The Lewis E. Love Memorial Science Education Award honors the legacy of Mr. Love, a Great Neck science teacher and department chair for more than 40 years, whose love of science and passion for teaching made a profound

and lasting impact on the personal and professional lives of his students.

Over the past six years, this award has provided funding to enhance various science programs districtwide.

In June 2025, North High and South High welcomed Great Neck North alum Marc Rubman '63, to announce the creation of the facilitator position. During his visit, he spoke with senior research students about their impressive work and shared the

powerful impact his former teacher had on him and his peers.

Great Neck's esteemed science research program is nationally recognized, with students consistently earning honors through the Regeneron Science Talent Search, regional and national science and engineering fairs, and other prestigious competitions. Our students' groundbreaking research at the high school level has been published in scientific journals and

presented at conferences around the world, making a positive influence on the scientific world.

The creation of this new facilitator position reflects both the district's commitment to excellence in science education, and the generosity of the Class of 1963 and other alumni who studied under Mr. Love, to honor the enduring influence of a teacher whose love of learning continues to inspire generations of students.

A Legacy to Inspire Discovery

Since 2019, the Lewis E. Love Memorial Science Education Award has provided funding to enhance science education programs at the elementary, middle and high school levels. These initiatives have sparked curiosity and expanded access to authentic scientific experiences for students across the district.

Provided start-up funding for the district's Elementary Robotics Enrichment Program, establishing a sustainable, hands-on STEM enrichment opportunity and participation in the FIRST LEGO League.

2019–20 School Year



- Secured Sustaining Membership to the Dolan DNA Learning Center.
- Funded an additional middle school Science Olympiad Team.
- Expanded access to high-level STEM opportunities for disadvantaged students, with a focus on English Language Learners.

2022–23 School Year



2021–22 School Year

Sponsored districtwide Science Research Field Trips for middle school students to the Dolan DNA Learning Center at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, providing authentic laboratory and research experiences aligned with secondary science curricula.



2025–26 School Year

Established the Districtwide Science Research Facilitator position to further strengthen our nationally recognized research programs at the middle and high school levels.



GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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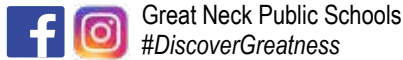
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Follow us!



Mission Statement

The Great Neck Public School District provides an innovative and collaborative educational environment that supports academic excellence and the social and emotional growth of all students so that they may become lifelong learners and compassionate, productive members of a diverse, global society.

2026–27 Budget Presentations and Important Dates

Budget presentations take place during public Board of Education meetings, which begin at 7:30 p.m. at E.M. Baker Elementary School. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Meetings are livestreamed and video recordings may be viewed on the district website. Copies of budget presentations will be available after each meeting at www.greatneck.k12.ny.us/budget26-27.

- **Tuesday, February 10:** Budget Presentation #1
- **Wednesday, March 11:** Budget Presentation #2
- **Tuesday, March 24:** Budget Presentation #3
- **Tuesday, April 21:** Budget Presentation #4 and Adoption of Proposed Budget
- **Tuesday, May 5:** Official Public Budget Hearing
- **Tuesday, May 19:** School Budget Vote
6 a.m.-9 p.m. at Baker, Lakeville, Saddle Rock and South High

Fechas de Reunión de Presupuesto e Información Importante

Las presentaciones del presupuesto se llevan a cabo durante las reuniones públicas de la Junta de Educación, que comienzan a las 7:30 p.m. en la escuela primaria E.M. Baker. Las fechas y los horarios están sujetos a cambios. Las reuniones se transmiten en vivo y las grabaciones de video se pueden ver en el sitio web del distrito. Copias de presentaciones presupuestarias estará disponible después de cada reunión en www.greatneck.k12.ny.us/budget26-27.

- **Martes 10 de febrero:** Presentación de presupuesto #1
- **Miércoles 11 de marzo:** Presentación de presupuesto #2
- **Martes 24 de marzo:** Presentación de presupuesto #3
- **Martes 21 de abril:** Presentación de presupuesto #4 y adopción del presupuesto propuesto
- **Martes 5 de mayo:** Audicencia oficial del presupuesto
- **Martes 19 de mayo:** Votación de Presupuesto Escolar de 6 a.m. a 9 p.m. en las escuelas Baker, Lakeville, Saddle Rock y South High



Board of
Education Meetings/
Reuniones de la
Junta de Educación



2026–27 School
Budget Information
/Información del
Presupuesto
Escolar



Voting and
Registration
Information/
Votación y Registro
Información