



Seneca Valley School District Press Release

For Immediate Release

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<photos attached.>

SV STUDENTS EXCEL AT THE PENNSYLVANIA JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE COMPETITION

JACKSON TOWNSHIP, PA (June 4, 2026) – Several Seneca Valley students demonstrated exceptional achievement at the 92nd Annual State Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS), competition held at Pennsylvania State University from May 17–19.

Students in grades 7–12 from Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS), Seneca Valley Intermediate High School and Seneca Valley Senior High School competed in the statewide event, showcasing their research, scientific inquiry and presentation skills among some of Pennsylvania’s top young scientists.

Seventh graders Paige Chesler and Lucia Parise received second-place awards and Anaya Kandikuppa received a first-place award. Eighth grader Cameron Swope received a first-place award and perfect score award. These students were sponsored by RGMS Science teacher, Ms. Erin Bosley.

Freshman Maddalyn Beicher received a first-place award. Juniors Abby Huppert, Mariana Marino Escobar and Peyton Mounty received second-place awards and Cruz Sanders received a first-place award. Senior Teagan Hmel received a first-place award. These students were sponsored by Seneca Valley Senior High School AP Chemistry teacher, Science Department Chair and Science Honor Society advisor, Ms. Kelly Weston.

Additionally, junior Everly Harrell, sponsored by Mrs. Megan Oldenski, earned both a first-place award and a perfect score award. During the special awards ceremony, Miss Harrell received the 2026 Oerlein Senior High Award for PJAS Excellence in Biology, which included a \$150 cash award. She was also selected as an alternate to attend the Pennsylvania Academy of Science Annual Meeting at Mercyhurst University in April 2027.

“Congratulations to all our students and advisors for their outstanding achievements and dedication to scientific research and inquiry,” said Ms. Kelly Weston.

The Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) is a statewide organization that promotes STEM research and public speaking for students in grades 7-12. Participants conduct independent scientific experiments and deliver 10-minute oral presentations at regional and state competitions. Approximately 1,800 students presented original scientific research and competed in a variety of disciplines, including Biochemistry, Botany, Ecology, Microbiology, Behavioral Science, Chemistry, Earth & Space Science, Physics, Biology, Computers, Mathematics and Zoology