



Seneca Valley School District

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Seneca Valley Teacher Selected as STEM Pioneer

JACKSON TOWNSHIP, PA (September 3, 2026) – Haine Elementary School teacher Jeremiah Friday has been selected as one of just 27 educators to serve as an official STEM Pioneer in the National STEM Teacher Corps Pilot Program, a four-year initiative funded by the National Science Foundation and led by Penn State University, The College of New Jersey and West Virginia University.

Friday was selected from a competitive pool of applicants following a review of his exemplary record as an elementary and gifted education teacher and his commitment to creating meaningful learning experiences for students.

“Mr. Friday brings curiosity, creativity and a genuine passion for helping students understand how the world around them works,” said Haine Elementary School Principal Dr. Kristen White. “His selection as a STEM Pioneer is a wonderful recognition of the work he is already doing with students, as well as his potential to grow as a teacher leader and share new ideas with colleagues.”

As part of the STEM Pioneers program, Friday participated in the STEM Pioneers Summer Institute this summer. The week-long professional learning experience focused on energy and engineering, providing educators with opportunities to explore various energy sources and identify locations of energy production throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey and West Virginia.

“The Summer Institute gave me the opportunity to look at energy and engineering through a different lens and to think about how those concepts can become meaningful learning experiences for elementary students,” said Friday. “I’m excited to bring what I learned back to Seneca Valley and give students more opportunities to ask questions, design solutions, test their ideas and see how STEM connects to the world around them.”

The National STEM Teacher Corps Pilot Program is designed to develop a network of teacher leaders who can strengthen STEM instruction and inspire students to engage in STEM-related learning and careers. Through the STEM Pioneers program, educators collaborate across the three-state region while continuing to develop their knowledge, skills and professional networks.

“Opportunities like the STEM Pioneers program allow our teachers to continually expand their knowledge while bringing new experiences and perspectives back to our classrooms,” said Seneca Valley Director of Student Services Dr. Cassandra Doggrell. “Jeremiah’s selection is a testament to his commitment to professional growth and to providing students with engaging, relevant learning experiences. We are excited to see how his participation will continue to benefit our students and contribute to the broader community of STEM educators.”

As a STEM Pioneer, Friday will continue participating in professional learning and collaborating with K-5 teacher leaders across Pennsylvania, New Jersey and West Virginia. He also will translate the knowledge and experiences gained through the program into classroom practice that benefits students at Seneca Valley.

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