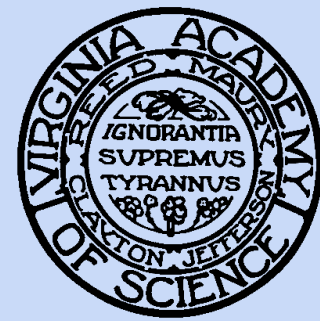




Virginia Junior Academy of Science Awards Ceremony May 18, 2026



Hampden-Sydney College



WILLIAM & MARY

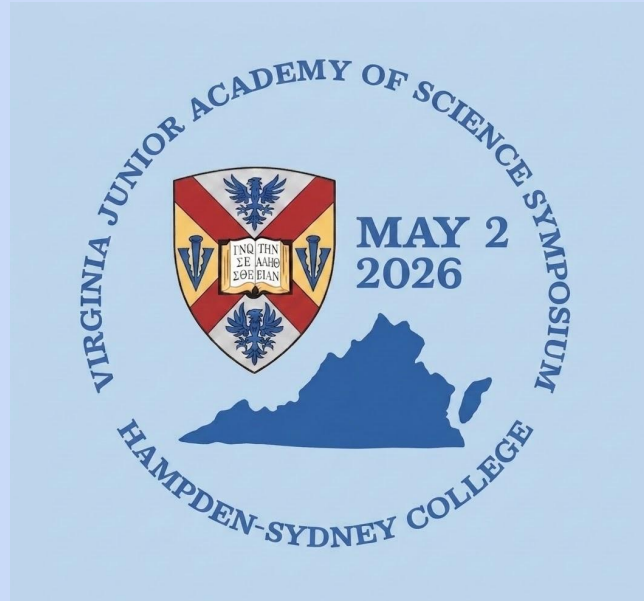
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The Program Will Begin at 7:00 PM



VJAS Partner in Education Award

Hampden-Sydney College





VAS Chris Osgood, President

Welcome from the VAS

All High School first place winners will receive an invite from the Virginia Academy of Science to attend the VAS Meeting held on May 28 at Christopher Newport University.





Middle School Section Awards



Animal & Human Science

First Place	Umika Mahesh <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>
Second Place	Medha Bhatt <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>
Third Place	Nicholas Heng <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>
Honorable Mention	Annika Shrestha <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>



Chemical Science

First Place	Suveer Madurantakam <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>
Second Place	Rukmini Nair <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>
Third Place	Shiven Kumar <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>
Honorable Mention	Jayakrishnan Gauri Varma <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>
Honorable Mention	Vraj Sheth <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>



Computational Biology

First Place	Isabella Nguyen <i>Hampton Roads Academy</i>
Second Place	Shaurya Sharma <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>
Third Place	Rithvik Reddigari <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>



Ecology & Earth Sciences

First Place	Vibha Kirubaharan <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>
Second Place	Saicharan Kodari <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>
Third Place	Daniyal Ijaz Muhammad <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>
Honorable Mention	Aarya Badodariya <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>



Engineering & Technology

First Place	Advaith Atulasima <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>
Second Place	Hazeem Ahmad <i>Louise Benton Middle School</i>
Third Place	Siddharth Rajan <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>
Honorable Mention	Akshaj Tetala <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>
Honorable Mention	Taran Shivkumar <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>
Honorable Mention	Aashvi Shah <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>



Human Behavior

First Place	Lydia Strickland <i>Sabot at Stony Point</i>
Second Place	Griffin Westlake <i>Sabot at Stony Point</i>
Third Place	Ananya Ware <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>



Mathematics: Patterns & Relationships

First Place	Srihaas Sudhireddy <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>



Microbiology

First Place	Drithi Konatham George H Moody Middle School
Second Place	Lorena Rodriguez Sabot at Stony Point
Third Place	Sidda Bhashyam George H Moody Middle School
Honorable Mention	Yashna Sharna George H Moody Middle School



Physical Science & Astronomy

First Place	Anish Gayapaka <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>
Second Place	Dylan Weinrich <i>Marsteller Middle School</i>
Third Place	Eli Fischer <i>Sabot at Stony Point</i>
Honorable Mention	Hannah Michael <i>George H. Moody Middle School</i>



Plant Science

First Place	Sarmed Ahmad <i>Louise Benton Middle School</i>
Second Place	Dheepthaa Devarajan Lakshman <i>George Moody Middle School</i>
Third Place	Sharanya Das <i>George Moody Middle School</i>
Honorable Mention	Ritu Manikanta <i>George Moody Middle School</i>



High School Section Awards



Botany - Section A

First Place	Zach Martin <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Second Place	Abdelrhman Salama <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Third Place	Yehor Belko, Samuel Long <i>Roanoke Valley Governor's School</i>
Honorable Mention	Marina Pantelic <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Gavin Johnson <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Jaiveer Basi <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>



Botany - Section B

First Place	Lauren Obeng, Ruth Seyefe, Sajeela Ahmad <i>Governor's School @ Innovation Park</i>
Second Place	Niharika Nair <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Third Place	Gabriel Friedman <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Joshua Hartso-Smith <i>Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science</i>
Honorable Mention	Sahasra Polavarapu <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Elaina Howard <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>



Chemistry - Section A

First Place	Barathi Saravanan <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Second Place	Margaret Saperstein <i>Washington-Liberty High School</i>
Third Place	Aditya Mamidala <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Lalantika Prabhanand <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Sahana Kannan <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Vihaan Khandelwal <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>



Chemistry - Section B

First Place	Paul Okojie <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Second Place	Rohan Sagar <i>Mathematics and Science Academy at Ocean Lakes High School</i>
Third Place	Brynne Wiegard <i>Roanoke Valley Governor's School</i>
Honorable Mention	Henri Charboneau <i>The Mathematics and Science High School at Clover Hill</i>
Honorable Mention	Addison Vest <i>Southwest Virginia Governor's School</i>
Honorable Mention	Allison Davenport, Anika Polineni, Audrey Organ <i>Governor's School @ Innovation Park</i>



Computational Biology - Section A

First Place	Krish Behera <i>Academies of Loudoun</i>
Second Place	Vedha Vishnu, Aysha Jafar, Jayson Rosas <i>Osborn Park</i>
Third Place	Macrea Ian Jora <i>Blacksburg High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Jonathan Li <i>McLean High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Shrihari Kalagi <i>Maggie L. Walker Governor's School</i>
Honorable Mention	Angie Yu <i>Individual Submission</i>



Computational Biology - Section B

First Place	Pranav Sundarrajan <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Second Place	Ilakkiya Gunganathan <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Third Place	Naitik Oza, Nisarg Oza <i>Freedom High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Samyak Srivastava <i>Roanoke Valley Governor's School</i>
Honorable Mention	Brandon Hu <i>Blacksburg High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Shravan Madurantakam <i>Maggie L. Walker Governor's School</i>



Engineering - Section A

First Place	Thomas Bakker <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Second Place	Elizabeth (Betsy) Wood <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Third Place	Lydia Pratt <i>Southwest Virginia Governor's School</i>
Honorable Mention	Daniel Dixon <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Erin Jansen <i>Patriot High School</i>



Engineering - Section B

First Place	Joanna Jackson <i>Southwest Virginia Governor's School</i>
Second Place	Svaran Medavarapu <i>Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology</i>
Third Place	Arjun Garg <i>Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Maria Benavides Ruiz <i>The Mathematics and Science High School at Clover Hill</i>



Engineering - Section C

First Place	Nathan Kim <i>John Randolph Tucker High School</i>
Second Place	Riya Patel, Jacob Rao <i>Collegiate</i>
Third Place	Jeremiah Milhorn <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Josthin Merlo Mendez <i>Annandale High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Spencer Sisson <i>Southwest Virginia Governor's School</i>
Honorable Mention	Kaeya Koparde <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>



Environmental & Earth Science - Section A

First Place	Olivia Cooke <i>Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science</i>
Second Place	Aneesha Chari <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Third Place	Rebecca Nguyen <i>Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science</i>
Honorable Mention	Abby Pham, Anusha Khan, Mlinda Nkhoma <i>Governor's School @ Innovation Park</i>
Honorable Mention	Safwan Abid, James Kim <i>Osborn Park High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Reya Bansal <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>



Environmental & Earth Science - Section B

First Place	Luqmaan Khan <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Second Place	Ella Ward <i>Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science</i>
Third Place	Madison Coghill <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Caitlyn Baxter <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Sterling Hudgins <i>Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science</i>
Honorable Mention	Jeevan Gutta <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>



Environmental & Earth Science - Section C

First Place	Aarushi Guduru <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Second Place	Esther Gammill <i>Mathematics and Science Academy at Ocean Lakes High School</i>
Third Place	Milo Tao-Lin <i>Blacksburg High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Aarya Patel <i>The Mathematics and Science High School at Clover Hill</i>
Honorable Mention	Layla Cordova <i>Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science</i>



Environmental & Earth Science - Section D

First Place	Gabriella Webb <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Second Place	Georges Saison <i>Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science</i>
Third Place	Layla Burford <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Caitlin Mays <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Genevieve Fitzgerald <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>



Mathematics: Theoretical & Modeling

First Place	Adelaide Li <i>Blacksburg High School</i>
Second Place	Arjun Madaan <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Third Place	Rishvanth Balasubramanian <i>Deep Run High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Natalie Johnson <i>Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science</i>
Honorable Mention	Philip Butler <i>Osborn Park</i>
Honorable Mention	David Owen <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>



Medicine & Health - Section A

First Place	Jerry Li <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Second Place	Zunaira Khan <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Third Place	Akbar Syed <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>



Medicine & Health - Section B

First Place	Joshua Osemobor <i>Southwest Virginia Governor's School</i>
Second Place	Amy Sun <i>Maggie L. Walker Governor's School</i>
Third Place	Yana Dewan <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Katie Lee <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Kindred Worrell <i>Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science</i>
Honorable Mention	Maryam Karim <i>Harrisonburg High School</i>



Medicine & Health - Section C

First Place	Ahana Goel <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Second Place	Olivia Judy <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Third Place	Charlotte Kirby <i>Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science</i>
Honorable Mention	Hayleii Dung <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Sreetoma Bag <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Arjun Madaan <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>



Microbiology & Cell Biology - Section A

First Place	Saad Ali <i>Blacksburg High School</i>
Second Place	Aditya Singhal, Ethan Xing <i>Maggie L. Walker Governor's School</i>
Third Place	Alexander Shen <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Elizabeth Dawkins <i>Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Taarun Ganesh <i>Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Lakshmi Sriansha Manchu <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>



Microbiology & Cell Biology - Section B

First Place	Ridhi Gutta <i>Academies of Loudoun</i>
Second Place	Stuti Tiwari <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Third Place	Geunyoung Chung <i>Maggie L. Walker Governor's School</i>
Honorable Mention	Abel Mengistu, Chaitanya Gohil <i>Roanoke Valley Governor's School</i>
Honorable Mention	Henry Bassam, Basim Alemy <i>Governor's School @ Innovation Park</i>
Honorable Mention	Deepshika Bhoopathi <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>



Microbiology & Cell Biology - Section C

First Place	Shiv Davay <i>Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology</i>
Second Place	Aasiyah Vohra <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Third Place	Tulsi Desai <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Aryan Gupta <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Tyler Stickle <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Khoinguyen Nguyen <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>



Microbiology & Cell Biology -Section D

First Place	Kevin Wen <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Second Place	Madeline Levorson <i>Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology</i>
Third Place	Eshaan Patel <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Narissa Chambers <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Ritvik Adusumilli <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>



Physics & Astronomy - Section A

First Place	Luka Tkabladze <i>Yorktown High School</i>
Second Place	Lillian Massat Benaich, Norah Biggins <i>Osborn Park</i>
Third Place	Chanelle Kungu <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Charlotte Paine <i>The Mathematics and Science High School at Clover Hill</i>



Physics & Astronomy - Section B

First Place	Joe Legutko <i>Collegiate</i>
Second Place	Taha Allauddin <i>Collegiate</i>
Third Place	Ella Walker <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Charles Lamb <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Michael Baron <i>Southwest Virginia Governor's School</i>
Honorable Mention	Ryaan Shiju <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>



Psychology - Section A

First Place	Alejandra Fernandez <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Second Place	Jack Mistretta <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Third Place	Dhanvi Sheth <i>Deep Creek High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Eric Pendlebury <i>St. Christopher's School</i>
Honorable Mention	Mia Nock <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>



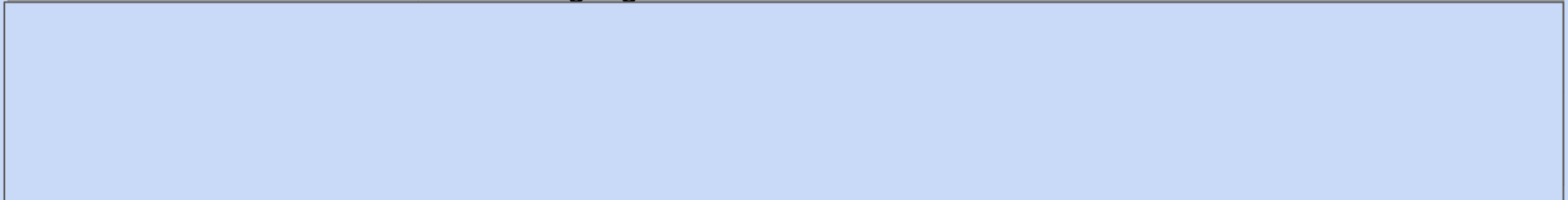
Psychology - Section B

First Place	Tinsley Beazley <i>Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science</i>
Second Place	Carrington Turnbow <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Third Place	Riley Meadows <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Ellie Blackwood <i>Collegiate</i>
Honorable Mention	Madison Jones <i>Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science</i>
Honorable Mention	Catherine Conner <i>Collegiate</i>



Statistical Analysis & Inferences

First Place	Daxing Yang <i>Mathematics and Science Academy at Ocean Lakes High School</i>
Second Place	Vivian Foutz <i>Western Albemarle High School</i>
Third Place	Dhruv Vijay <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Madilyn Marsden <i>Blacksburg High School</i>





Zoology - Section A

First Place	Jack Porter <i>Collegiate</i>
Second Place	Arianna Pittarelli <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Third Place	Xavier Gitre <i>Blacksburg High School</i>
Honorable Mention	Tovia Carothers <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Liam Lauria-Leighton <i>Southwest Virginia Governor's School</i>
Honorable Mention	Priya Kumar <i>Maggie L. Walker Governor's School</i>



Zoology - Section B

First Place	Matthew Rader <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Second Place	Agam Agrawal <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>
Third Place	Isla Wasson <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Isaac Yatlong Kwong <i>Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology</i>
Honorable Mention	Lilly Bowman <i>Southwest Virginia Governor's School</i>
Honorable Mention	Daniyal Bhatti <i>Mills E. Godwin High School</i>



VJAS SPECIAL AWARDS and SCHOLARSHIPS



FIRST PLACE CATEGORY-SECTION AWARDS

These awards are given to the best papers, as determined by either the Section Judges or, if multiple sections, by a group of Special Award Judges or by their descriptions in the VJAS Handbook.



VAS Botany Award

**Given by the Botany Section of VJAS for
outstanding research presented in a Botany
Section of VJAS.**

Lauren Obeng, Ruth Seyefe, Sajeela Ahmad
Governor's School @ Innovation Park

Antioxidant-Mediated Recovery of Mitochondrial Function and Cell
Viability in Hydrogen Peroxide-Stressed *Nicotiana tabacum* Callus
Tissue



ANN M. HANCOCK CELLULAR BIOLOGY AWARD

This award is given to the best paper in cellular biology and is presented in memory of Anne M. Hancock who retired from Patrick Henry High School in Hanover County and who gave many years of service to the Jr. Academy not only by teaching but also serving on the Jr. Academy Committee.

Ridhi Gutta

Academies of Loudoun

*Combatting Lassa Fever: Investigating Pathogenesis and
Constructing a Preliminary Vaccine Candidate*



RODNEY C. BERRY CHEMISTRY AWARD

The Rodney C. Berry Chemistry Award is given for the paper that evidences the most significant contribution in the field of chemistry.

Barathi Saravanan
Mills E. Godwin High School

*Development of Anthocyanin-Based Colorimetric pH Sensor Films for
Intelligent Monitoring of Shrimp Spoilage*



Computational Biology

**Given by the Computational Biology Section of VJAS for
outstanding research presented in a Computational
Section of VJAS.**

Krish Behera

Academies of Loudoun

EpiSight: A Graph Convolutional Network for Epileptogenic Zone Localization in
Drug-Resistant Epilepsy Using Phase-Amplitude Coupling



VIRGINIA PENINSULA ENGINEERS ENGINEERING AWARD

The Virginia Peninsula Engineers Engineering Award is given to the paper that evidences the most significant contribution in the field of Engineering.

Nathan Kim

John Randolph Tucker High School

*Microstructure-Resolved Design of Porous Dielectric Membranes
for Ultrathin Capacitive In-Stent Intracranial Pressure Sensors*



Environmental Science

**Given by the Environmental Science Section of VAS
for outstanding research presented in an
Environmental Section of VJAS.**

Olivia Cooke

***Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental
Science***

Comparative Study of Catch Efficiency and Fouling Accumulation Between Galvanized
and Vinyl-Coated Crab Traps



MATHEMATICS AWARD

The Mathematics Award is given for the paper that evidences the most significant contribution in the field of Mathematics.

Adelaide Li

Blacksburg High School

*Long-Term Sustainability of a Wealth Tax Base Under Liquidity
Constraints: An Agent-Based Modeling Approach*



PHYSICS AWARD

The Physics Award is given for the paper that evidences the most significant contribution in the field of Physics and Astronomy. The award was established through the donations of past Jeffers Memorial Lecturers.

Joe Legutko
Collegiate

The Effect of Satellite Trails on Signal to Noise Ratios for Astrophotography



PSYCHOLOGY AWARD

The Psychology Award is given to the paper that evidences the most significant contribution in the field of Psychology.

Tinsley Beazley

***Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and
Environmental Science***

*A Correlation between Short-Term and Working Memory and Cognitive Ability in
Children*



STATISTICS AWARD

The Statistics Award is given for the paper that evidences the most significant contribution in the field of Statistics.

Daxing Yang

Mathematics and Science Academy at Ocean Lakes High School

Historical Redlining and Urban Heat Islands in Norfolk, Virginia



VABE ZOOLOGY AWARD

This award is presented by the Virginia Association of Biology Educators and is given for outstanding research in the Zoology section.

Jack Porter
Collegiate

Impacts of Lead on the Cognitive Function of the Flatworm, Girardia tigrina



SPECIAL INTEREST AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Students apply for these awards and they are judged by special panels. (If any awards are not given, we did not receive any papers meeting the standards of the award.)



CANCER RESEARCH AWARDS

These awards are to recognize outstanding science papers related to cancer research. These awards are provided by the American Cancer Society.

Ahana Goel

Mills E. Godwin High School

*Evaluating Tinospora cordifolia and Gemcitabine's Combined Effects on
Pancreatic Cancer*



DR. AND MRS. PRESTON H. LEAKE AWARD IN APPLIED CHEMISTRY

The Dr. and Mrs. Preston H. Leake Award in Applied Chemistry is given to the author of a research paper which best exemplifies how chemicals, chemical principles, or chemistry have been used, are used, or might be used to enhance or even to save life.

Margaret Saperstein
Washington-Liberty High School

The Effect of Different Rapidly Composed, Biodegradable Hydrogel
Formulations on Adhesion, Fire Retardation, and Viscosity



GAMMA SIGMA DELTA AWARD

Virginia Tech Chapter of the Honor Society of
Agriculture

Given to a student in recognition of excellence in
research dealing with the application of new
technologies and/or concepts in agriculture, forestry,
or veterinary medicine.

Esther Gammill

Mathematics and Science Academy at Ocean Lakes High School

Halophyte Intercropping for Saline Agriculture



ROSCOE HUGHES GENETICS AWARD

The Roscoe Hughes Award is given for the best paper in the field of Genetics.

Cody Cline

Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology

Cutting It Close: Finding the Minimum Cas9 Concentration for Effective Gene Editing



DR. SMITH SHADOMY INFECTIOUS DISEASES AWARD

This award is given to commemorate Dr. Smith Shadomy by the Virginia Chapter of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases to the paper that evidences outstanding research in the field of infectious diseases.

Brandon Hu
Blacksburg High School

Investigating Meteorological Drivers in Models of Aedes Albopictus Population Dynamics



Dr. Jerome Parsons Award for Clinical Dermatology

Presented for the first time, in honor of dermatologist Dr. Jerome Parsons, this award recognizes the paper which makes the most significant contribution to the study of Dermatology.

Olivia Judy

***Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and
Technology***

*Trapping Water, Not Skin An In-Vitro Study of Hyaluronic Acid and Occlusive
Moisturizers*



SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AWARD

Given by the Richmond Area Speleological Society for outstanding research addressing karst or topics related to speleology (bats, caves, carbonate geology, paleoenvironments, limestone fossils, sinkholes, etc.)

Subhransu Das
Mills E Godwin High School

*The Effect of Geographical Location on Near-Future Earthquake
Frequency*



VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY (VMNH) AWARD

This award is presented by the Friends of the Virginia Museum of Natural History in recognition of a significant contribution in the study and interpretation of Virginia's Natural Heritage.

Georges Saison

Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science

How might Forest Clear-Cutting and Tree Buffer Width affect the Variability of Vernal Pools?



VIRGINIA SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM AWARD

This award is given by the Virginia Sea Grant College Program for outstanding marine or coastal research.

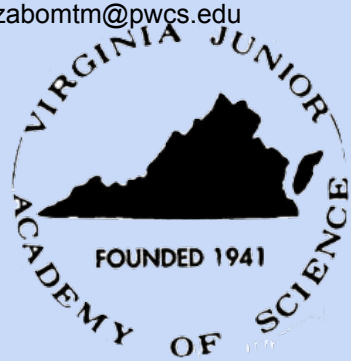
Philip Butler

Osbourn Park

The Game of Overfishing in Chesapeake Bay



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



BETHEL HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship of \$1000 is awarded to a student (9-12 grades and not a team project) who has produced an outstanding written paper and is a first-place winner. The money is paid to the student's college or university in two equal payments during the first year. This scholarship comes from the interest earned from a \$10,000 endowment contributed to the VJAS by the students of Bethel High School, Hampton, Virginia.

Olivia Cooke

Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science

Comparative Study of Catch Efficiency and Fouling Accumulation Between Galvanized and Vinyl-Coated Crab Traps



HENRY MACKENZIE ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP (VEE)

Henry MacKenzie Environmental Scholarship - This \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded to the twelfth grade student whose paper evidences the most significant contribution in the field of Environmental Science dealing with the James River Basin and Chesapeake Bay. The Virginia Environmental Endowment and VJAS offer this scholarship in tribute to the outstanding and generous services of Judge Henry W. MacKenzie, Jr., one of the founding directors, who has a great interest in the James River and the Chesapeake Bay.



Lucas Holland
Blacksburg High School

Modeling Spatial Temperature Structure Using Generalized Additive Models and Local Indicators of Spatial Association



FRANCES AND SYDNEY LEWIS ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP (VEE)

Frances and Sydney Lewis Environmental Scholarship: A \$5,000 scholarship for the best effort by a student in grade 12 in the field of environmental science. This scholarship is in the name of Frances and Sydney Lewis and is given by the Virginia Environmental Endowment.



Madeline Levorson

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

*Novel Antimicrobial Treatments Designed With Discovered Lytic
Bacteriophages Evaluated Through a Rapid Screening Protocol and
an In Vivo Galleria mellonella System*



BEST OVERALL PAPERS

These awards are determined by a panel of Special Judges from among the first place papers in each of the sections.



DOROTHY KNOWLTON AWARD

Given to the **middle school** student or team presenting the best project in the **life and earth sciences**. This is given in honor of Dorothy Knowlton, the former Science Coordinator of Arlington County, who was instrumental in advancing experimental design with the science curriculum.

Drithi Konatham

George H. Moody Middle School

The Effect of Varying Salinity Levels on Nannochloropsis phytoplankton's Ability to Produce Dissolved Oxygen and Deposit it into a Controlled Environment



JOYCE K. PETERSON AWARD

Given to the **middle school** student or team presenting the best project in the **physical sciences**. This is given in honor of Joyce Peterson, an outstanding teacher in the Arlington County Schools.

Suveer Madurantakam

George H. Moody Middle School

The Effect of Rapid and Slow Gelation of Sodium Alginate on the Physical Properties and Dye Retention



JONES/ELLETT AWARD

This award is given to the 12th grade senior student whose paper evidences the most significant contribution to science.

Joe Legutko
Collegiate

The Effect of Satellite Trails on Signal to Noise Ratios for Astrophotography



VJAS Delegates to AJAS

A panel of honor judges selects the honorees from among the students (grades 9-11) who won first place in a senior high section. The projects are ranked from "1" to "4". The winner is the first ranked project. Alternates are ranked in order 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.

AJAS will be held in Chicago, IL Feb 17-20, 2027



VJAS Delegate(s) to AJAS

Ridhi Gutta

Academies of Loudoun



VJAS Delegates to AJAS

THE ALTERNATES IN ORDER ARE

Jerry Li

Mills E. Godwin High School

Nathan Kim

John Randolph Tucker High School

Pranav Sundarrajan

Mills E. Godwin High School



Ertle Thompson Memorial Endowment Award

The Ertle Thompson Memorial Endowment Award is established to honor Dr. Ertle Thompson, a long-term leader of VJAS and a former president of the VAS. When financial circumstances allow, these awards will be presented annually to the winner(s) selected as the VJAS Delegate(s) to the AJAS. The purpose of the funds is to help support attendance at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Junior Academy of Science.

Ridhi Gutta

Academies of Loudoun



AWARDS FOR SPONSORS



THE FRANKLIN D. KIZER FUND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD IN HONOR OF E. C. L. MILLER

This award recognizes the exceptional contributions to VJAS of a STEM teacher.

Criteria:

- The recipient will be a teacher who has contributed to the VJAS by sponsoring student research projects, serving as a reader, judge, and/or member of the VJAS Committee.
- The teacher will be nominated and chosen by the VJAS Committee.



THE FRANKLIN D. KIZER FUND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD IN HONOR OF E. C. L. MILLER

The winner of the Franklin D. Kizer
Distinguished Service Award is:

Michele Chamot

***Central Virginia Governor's School for Science
and Technology***



THE FRANKLIN D. KIZER SCIENCE TEACHER OF TOMORROW AWARD

This award recognizes an outstanding Virginia science teacher and provides an opportunity for professional development through attendance at the annual VAST meeting.

- The recipient is a teacher with a maximum of 5 years as a VJAS teacher sponsor.
- The recipient will have sponsored student participation at the VJAS annual meeting.
- The recipient is nominated and chosen by the VJAS Committee.
- This award will be used to support the recipient's professional development by providing the funds needed to attend the annual VAST meeting.



THE FRANKLIN D. KIZER SCIENCE TEACHER OF TOMORROW AWARD

The winner of the Franklin D. Kizer Science
Teacher of Tomorrow Award is:

Theresa Szabo-Maas

Osbourn Park High School



The Franklin D. Kizer Professional Development Stipend

This award will be presented to a teacher of the VJAS Best Research Paper Award winner.

The recipient is a teacher and is active with the VJAS.

The award will be used to support the professional development of the teacher-sponsor of the VJAS Best Research Paper (Jones/Ellett Award) winner to attend professional development events in Virginia at the discretion of the VJAS Committee.

Stew Williamson
Collegiate



THE DEAN DECKER AJAS SPONSOR SCIENCE AWARD

The Dr. R. Dean Decker Honorarium award this year to go to the teacher/sponsor of the top student winner of the AJAS trip. The monies can be used at the discretion of the recipient as long as it is related to the attendance at the AJAS meeting. Guidelines and procedures for the recipient will follow later.

Suzanne Lohr

Academies of Loudoun



OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS



VAS AWARD FOR DEDICATED SERVICE TO VJAS

The support of VAS makes all of this possible. In addition to several awards that have already been given by VAS, this award recognizes a past VJAS officer or a VJAS member who has continued to provide support as a volunteer to the Junior Academy even after completion of high school.

Rania LaTeef

VJAS Past President

Alumni Recruiter

Stanford University



VJAS Student Leadership Award in Honor of the memory of Jo Ann B. Neely, mother of Deborah L. Neely-Fisher, Past President of VAS

The VJAS Student Leadership Fund Award is established to support when financial circumstances allow the student officers of the VJAS who play an integral role not only in representing Virginia students but also in communicating information about the VJAS. These awards will be presented annually to the winner(s) selected as the senior student officers of the VJAS. It supports the positive influence and skill set embodied by the memory of Jo Ann B. Neely, which she strove to instill in others.

Madeline Levorson

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology



VJAS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

A special certificate is presented to a person for exceptionally outstanding service to the VJAS and public recognition is given at the Research Symposium. This is the most prestigious award that the VJAS Committee gives.

Dr. Tara LaTeef

**Director of Student
Leadership**



VJAS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

A special certificate is presented to a person for exceptionally outstanding service to the VJAS and public recognition is given at the Research Symposium. This is the most prestigious award that the VJAS Committee gives.

Dr. Elsa Falls

Randolph-Macon College



VAS HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

This award which includes one year's membership in the Virginia Academy of Science including a subscription to the *Virginia Journal of Science* is awarded for outstanding service to the Junior Academy and the VJAS Committee.

Madeline Levorson

***Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and
Technology***



VJAS OFFICERS 2026-2027

President	Taarun Ganesh	Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology
Vice President	Sajeela Ahmad	Governor's School at Innovation Park
Secretary	Mirabella Garza	Blacksburg High School
Secretary	Zach Martin	Central Virginia Gov. School
Communication Liaison	Chloe Sistrunk	Charles J Colgan High School
Communication Liaison	Aarav Saxena	Maggie L Walker Governor's School
Editor in Chief	Maedot Ayalew	H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program
Editor in Chief	Eshaan Patel	Mills E Godwin High School



See You IN PERSON Next Year at...

Potomac Shores Middle School



Saturday, May 22, 2027