

**Press Release:****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) Competition**

On Saturday, February 4th, ten Riverview students participated in the regional Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) competition held at Duquesne University. PJAS allows students to complete scientific laboratory experiments and STEM related investigations under the guidance of a teacher mentor. Students then present their results to a panel of scientists and engineers who evaluate the quality of the student's work. The following students presented projects at the competition.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Project Category</b>	<b>Project Title</b>
Ryan Cecil	11	Math	Regression Line Derivation
Sam Connolly	11	Chemistry	Acid Catalysts and Ester Production
Andrew Garda	11	Chemistry	Transition Metal Complexes and Absorbance
Sidra Hopkins	8	Physics	Light Bulbs and Room Temperature
Lauren Hornsby	8	Chemistry	The Effects of Antacids on pH
Alyse Johnson	8	Physics	Investigating Impact Forces
Olivia Rossi	8	Botany	Lima Bean Respiration Rate
Tenaeja Sheffey	8	Computer Science	Password Security
Miya Tominello	8	Zoology	Investigating Ant Repellents
Sofia Volpe	8	Physics	Solar Panel Power

Andrew, Sidra, Olivia, Tenaeja, and Miya earned Second Awards for their projects. Ryan, Sam, Lauren, Alyse, and Sofia earned First Awards, making them eligible to compete at the state PJAS competition in May. In addition a number of students earned special awards. Ryan Cecil earned a perfect score and the prestigious Duquesne University Award of Merit. Sam Connolly earned the senior high division award in Chemistry from the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society and will be invited to attend their annual banquet. Lauren Hornsby received the Carnegie Mellon Sigma Xi Award for Chemistry as well as the middle school division award in Chemistry from the Pittsburgh section of the American Chemical Society and will also be invited to attend their banquet. Sofia Volpe earned the Duquesne University award for Excellence in Scientific Pursuits, an award from Bechtel Plant Machinery, and an award from the Carnegie Mellon Energy, Science, Technology, and Policy group. A number of these special awards also involved prize money and in total our students earned nearly \$1000 in award money.

Congratulations to all the Riverview participants for their hard work and dedication to their projects over the past three months. We are so proud of their accomplishments and dedication to STEM related fields of study. Good luck to Ryan, Sam, Lauren, Alyse, and Sofia at the PJAS State Competition!  
Now this is **SERIOUS STEM SUCCESS!**