

West Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair

OFFICIAL RESULTS

March 9, 2026

Division I, Animal Science

HM	<i>Music To Make You Crack</i>			
	Jocelyn Peplowski	Payton Peplowski	Charlotte Peplowski	Greenbrier County
3rd	<i>Whitetail Deer: Choice of Food</i>			
	Caroline Andrews			Morgan County
2nd	<i>Rate of Gain</i>			
	Brooke Burns			Preston County
1st	<i>My Egg-cellent Business</i>			
	Adeline McPherson			Roane County

Division I, Behavioral and Social Sciences

HM	<i>Is Yawning Really Contagious?</i>			
	Grace DeBeni	Mercer Materkoski		Ohio County
3rd	<i>The Nose Knows: A Battle of Taste vs. Smell</i>			
	Jada Neumann			Greenbrier County
2nd	<i>Who Has Better Tempo, A Dancer or a Musician?</i>			
	Ella Hugas			Berkeley County

Division I, Chemistry

HM	<i>Where Did My Shell Go?</i>			
	Rosemary Britton	Arielle Abboud		Wood County
3rd	<i>Melting Ice</i>			
	Catalina Richards	Harper Dick		Preston County
2nd	<i>In Which Container Will the Ice Cream Melt the Fastest?</i>			
	Toleen Alkhawani	Sanaa Farran	Maryam Branion	Kanawha County
1st	<i>The Acid Attack: How Soda Eats Away At Your Smile</i>			
	Mace Dolan-White	Maddix Dolan-White	Lyndi Whited	Greenbrier County

Division I, Earth and Environmental Sciences

HM	<i>Growing Gummy Bears</i>			
	Hudson Martin			Nicholas County
3rd	<i>Environmental Effects on Copper Weathering</i>			
	Beckett Stotts			Wood County
2nd	<i>Which Water Filter Works Best</i>			
	Amelia Luczko			Marion County
1st	<i>Surface Tension Superpowers</i>			
	Teegan Racine			Ohio County

Division I, Energy

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3rd	<i>To Conduct or Not to Conduct</i>	Samantha Tidwell	Berkeley County
2nd	<i>Kinetic to Electric: Turning Wind to Watts</i>	Levi Brumfield	Raleigh County
1st	<i>Produce Energy: Making Batteries from Fruit</i>	Leo Lockett	Greenbrier County

Division I, Engineering

HM	<i>How Does the Wear of a Brake Pad Effect How Fast a Car Stops</i>	Katelynn Hensley	Clay County
3rd	<i>Flood Watch: Flash Flood Conditions Alert System</i>	Miles McKay	Berkeley County
2nd	<i>Soaring Propellers</i>	Kavya Babariya	Wood County
1st	<i>Adaptive Hand/Arm Device for Safe Biking and Kayaking</i>	Liliana Wood Amelia Tennant	Marion County

Division I, Material Science

HM	<i>Battle of the Bubble Gum</i>	Kate Magaha Kennedy Carroll	Jefferson County
3rd	<i>Static Magic</i>	Rowan Bailey	Greenbrier County
2nd	<i>Which Line is A Keeper?</i>	Henry Rohanna Jonathan Hunt Asher Patton	Monongalia County
1st	<i>Heated</i>	Rebecca Daniels	Wyoming County

Division I, Mathematics and Data

3rd	<i>Blowing Out the Competition</i>	Avery Hawk	Grant County
2nd	<i>Can AI Beat the Odds?</i>	Violet Midkiff	Cabell County
1st	<i>Great Cookie Dunk</i>	Kendall Neeley Aubree Hunter	Mercer County

Division I, Medical Sciences

HM	<i>Generic vs Brand Name Medication: Which Works Faster?</i>	Liv Lowdermilk	Marion County
3rd	<i>Dental Dilemma</i>	Adalyn Bucks	Nicholas County

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2nd	<i>Moisturizer: Face the Facts</i>		
	Hadley Smith	Madeline Browning	Mercer County
1st	<i>Where Does Your Toothbrush Sleep?</i>		
	Gianna Bryant		Jackson County

Division I, Physics and Astronomy

HM	<i>What Materials Block Radio Frequencies?</i>		
	Liezl Wimmer		Upshur County
3rd	<i>Crack vs. Pop</i>		
	Cash Boggs		Raleigh County
2nd	<i>The Physics of Bottle Flipping</i>		
	Zach Timberlake		Ohio County
1st	<i>The Science of a Soft Landing</i>		
	Presley Cline		Greenbrier County

Division I, Plant Science

HM	<i>How to Rainbow Grow</i>		
	Kourtney Prichard	Gianna Trupia	Wyoming County
3rd	<i>Stay Clean Stay Green, Guac this Way!</i>		
	Brynley Lavayen		Ohio County
2nd	<i>What Solution Keeps Cut Flowers Fresh the Longest</i>		
	Amelia Mayer		Marion County
1st	<i>Phototropism: aMAZE of Light</i>		
	Nathan Close		Morgan County

Division I, Technology

HM	<i>How Circuits Affect My Life</i>		
	Talia Hurley		Greenbrier County
3rd	<i>Which "Battery" Powered My Robot the Best?</i>		
	Jaidev Kavuri		Wood County
2nd	<i>S.A.L.L.Y. - The Pole Climbing Robot</i>		
	Dominic Collins		Jefferson County
1st	<i>Smart Sensors</i>		
	Trenton Riffe		Mercer County

Division II, Animal Science

HM	<i>Tortoise and Hare-Who Would Actually Win?</i>		
	Duke Fleet	Cael Young	Jefferson County
3rd	<i>Tails Waggin' Tints</i>		
	Piper Bobo		Marion County

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2nd	<i>Worming Out the Truth</i>	Aven Pifer	Adley Ritchie	Wood County
1st	<i>EggSEALANT: The Effect of Applied Eggshell Coatings on Preventing Egg Weight Loss During Storage</i>	Ross Pownell		Pendleton County

Division II, Behavioral and Social Sciences

HM	<i>Music vs Media-What Do They Do to Cognitive Function?</i>	Emily Shuman		Wood County
3rd	<i>Music vs Concentration</i>	Abigail Samples		Clay County
2nd	<i>Project Eleven</i>	Ben Bailey		Wyoming County
1st	<i>Human vs. AI</i>	Vincenzo Altobello		Mineral County

Division II, Chemistry

HM	<i>Elephant Toothpaste</i>	Gage Myers		Marshall County
3rd	<i>Now You See It, Now You Don't: The Science of Invisible Ink</i>	Cole Shumate		Raleigh County
2nd	<i>How Cheesy is Your Cheese?</i>	Finn Harris		Marion County
1st	<i>Salty Science</i>	Olivia Ott		Mason County

Division II, Earth and Environmental Sciences

3rd	<i>Risks to Evitts Run's Aquatic Life</i>	Jace Moreno		Jefferson County
2nd	<i>Faulty Injections</i>	Raiden Sayre		Jackson County
1st	<i>Mist Opportunities</i>	Milyn Neumann		Greenbrier County

Division II, Energy

HM	<i>Which Wind Turbine Produces the Most Energy?</i>	Byron Santonas		Marshall County
3rd	<i>Which Battery Brand Lasts the Longest?</i>	Avery Sanders	Estelle Roderick	Monongalia County
2nd	<i>Electrolyte Energy</i>	Henry Anderson		Jackson County

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1st *Great Scott! "Bac"tricity*
Zoey Brown Mercer County

Division II, Engineering

HM *Heating Up the Streets*
Kennsie Grigsby Marshall County

3rd *Maximum Motion*
Ryker Gladwell Putnam County

2nd *More Flo for Bro*
John Danzey Harlan Morreale Jefferson County

1st *An Engineering Design: Investigation of Thermal Preservation in Insulation Through Material Selection and Thickness Optimization*
Yashmit Panta Raleigh County

Division II, Material Science

3rd *Fruit Vs. Fabric*
Jenifer Taylor Pocahontas County

2nd *Paper Towel Absorbency*
Korbin Henry Wyoming County

1st *Tumbler Wars: The Insulation Game*
Raiden Brewer Wood County

Division II, Mathematics and Data

HM *The Speed of Different Sorting Algorithms Technology*
Nathaniel Dodd Kanawha County

3rd *Hidden Gaussians Around Us*
Alisha Khan Hadley Adkins Greenbrier County

2nd *What's Poppin*
Ezekiel Martindale Ellianna Martindale Mason County

1st *How Angle Affects Penetration-Airsoft vs Foam Board*
Olivia Rose Wood County

Division II, Medical Sciences

HM *Regenerative Medicine vs. Bionic Technology: Which Has More Potential to Restore Human Limbs?*
Kianoosh Nawai Berkeley County

3rd *The Spreading Secret*
Taylor Eakle Marion County

2nd *Font vs Reading*
Jordyn Lemle Macie Dean Putnam County

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1st *Shining Light on Sugar: Can Light Detect Blood Glucose?*
Jayden Mathew Wood County

Division II, Physics and Astronomy

HM *Don't Be a Drag! Optimizing Weight for Max Flight*
Sophia Riley Wirt County

3rd *Radio Reflections*
Brayden Ray Pocahontas County

2nd *What Product is the Best for Deicing?*
Curtis Weeks Marshall County

1st *Wheee! How Much Track to Loop the Loop?*
Benjamin McCune Upshur County

Division II, Plant Science

HM *Can UV Light Make Strawberries Last Longer?*
Brynn Rogers Harrison County

3rd *The Melody of Mint*
Caroline Mount Jules Keller Cabell County

2nd *Bread Molding*
Lyla Titus Clay County

1st *How Microplastic Affects Plants*
Gabby Dantrassy Marshall County

Division II, Technology

HM *AC vs DC*
Paxton Mullins Blake DeMoss Nicholas County

3rd *Ball or Nothing: Can AI Score?*
Reagan Vance Raleigh County

2nd *Can AI be Eyed?*
Tony Mohwish Wood County

1st *Face Or Fake*
Brynlee Franklin Berkeley County

Division III, Animal Sciences

3rd *Good Vibrations: Can Vibrations Stop Lanternfly Mating?*
Abigail Keller Berkeley County

2nd *Do Whorl Patterns Impact Cattle Behavior Based on Breed?*
Sophie Randolph Putnam County

Division III, Behavioral and Social Sciences

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3rd	<i>Better Memory-Mindful Minutes</i>		
	Stella Bailey		Mercer County
2nd	<i>Intergenerational Correlation of Bachelor's Degree Attainment</i>		
	Aubrey Korngiver		Marshall County
1st	<i>Sleeping Students</i>		
	Mani-Juliette Sakho		Berkeley County

Division III, Biochemistry

1st	<i>Grade Matters: Matcha vs. Oxidation</i>		
	Aiko Ng		Jackson County

Division III, Biomedical and Health Sciences

3rd	<i>Genetic and Molecular Biology of Disease</i>		
	Shrija Malkaram		Kanawha County
2nd	<i>Humidity's Effect on Heart rate</i>		
	Eileen Parks		Preston County
1st	<i>How Native and Non-Native Languages Load onto the Physics Network</i>		
	Whitney Heller		Berkeley County

Division III, Biomedical Engineering

1st	<i>Sandura: A Wearable Sensor and Oscillatory Device to Reduce the Manifestation of Hand Tremors for Parkinson's Disease</i>		
	Riley Ellis		Berkeley County

Division III, Cellular and Molecular Biology

2nd	<i>Mitigating Obesity and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Through Omega-3 Enrichment in Spinach Leaves</i>		
	Manvitha Sanjaya	Charvitha Sanjaya	Kanawha County
1st	<i>A Developmental Perspective on Studying Clock Neurons in Drosophila Melanogaster</i>		
	Ryan Chen	Anna Kurov	Monongalia County

Division III, Chemistry

3rd	<i>Orange Juice vs. Sports Drinks</i>		
	Clayton Mack		Mercer County
2nd	<i>Soap Opera: DNA Edition</i>		
	Isabella Carvajal	Lauren Daniels	Berkeley County
1st	<i>Comparative Analysis of Vitamin C Degradation Across Cooking Methods</i>		
	Mariah Titchenell		Preston County

Division III, Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

1st	<i>The Hybridization of Generative Diffusion Models with Molecular Dynamics Simulations: a Novel Method to Accelerate Drug Discovery</i>		
	Pavan Subramani		Monongalia County

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Division III, Earth and Environmental Sciences

- 3rd** *Which Material Biodegrades Best for the Environment?*
Nicholas Butcher Berkeley County
- 2nd** *Fading Lights: The Effect of Artificial Light on Firefly Activity*
Eliora Fink-Miller Mercer County
- 1st** *Dirty to Clean: Which Method Works Best?*
Lexa Galloway Preston County

Division III, Energy: Sustainable Materials and Design

- HM** *All Juiced Up*
Desmond Myers McDowell County
- 3rd** *Breaking the Barrier*
Micah Ertel Grant County

Division III, Engineering Technology: Statics and Dynamics

- HM** *Repel-Attract Magnetic Levitation: How Inverter Magnetic Systems Defy Earth's Gravity*
Adrian Jimenez Berkeley County
- 3rd** *Design and Optimization of Innovative Thermal Management Systems*
Maya Panta Raleigh County
- 2nd** *Hybrid Nozzle Design and Optimization for Adaptive Thrust Efficiency Across Varying Altitudes*
Henry Davis Ian Osborne Kanawha County
- 1st** *Shark-Skin Inspired Micro-Riblets: A Biomimetic Approach to Airfoil Drag Reduction*
Jaxon Milam Joseph Nodurft Ohio County

Division III, Environmental Engineering

- 3rd** *What is the Best Natural Water Filter?*
Katie Peach Lydia Allen Berkeley County
- 2nd** *How pH Affects Aquatic Life in Restored and Contaminated Streams*
Rylee Fauber Putnam County
- 1st** *Design, Ruggedization, and Field Validation of a Low Cost Water Quality Sensor System*
Thomas Farrell Cabell County

Division III, Materials Science

- HM** *Electric Extravaganza: The Electrolyte Test*
Oliver Baldwin Berkeley County
- 2nd** *3D Print Crusher*
Wyatt Lamb Webster County

Division III, Mathematics

- 3rd** *It's Just a Theory*
Anna Long Jackson County

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- 2nd** *Lionel Messi: A Star Player's Impacts on MLS Games*
Hope Wu Kanawha County
- 1st** *Does a Rising Tide Lift All Boats? A Statistical Analysis of Economic Growth's Impact on Income Inequality*
Angela Yao Monongalia County

Division III, Microbiology

- 3rd** *Pandemic Problems-Which Mask Works Best?*
Carl Dearth Wood County
- 1st** *Concentrations of Chlorine Bleach's Effect on E. coli*
Brian Burton Jack Hopkins Berkeley County

Division III, Physics and Astronomy

- 3rd** *Sound and Shape*
Aiden Sacks Eli Greenberg Berkeley County
- 2nd** *Sound Lasers and Mirrors: How Sounds Affect The Shape of Vibrations*
Micah Dodd Ohio County
- 1st** *Automotive Suspension Generator*
Alex Orrego Monongalia County

Division III, Plant Sciences

- 3rd** *How Light Color Affects Plant Growth in Wisconsin Fast Plants*
Anna Gianato Alexis Dillon Michaela Scott Wyoming County
- 2nd** *Getting to the Base-ics Which Lime Works Best?*
Nathan Bernatowicz Preston County
- 1st** *Modeling Soil Fertility in Appalachian Coalfields through Quantum Machine Learning*
Sophie L Allen Fayette County

Division III, Robotics and Intelligent Machines

- 3rd** *Arduino Controlled Sunshield for Lunar Agriculture*
Levi Carney Wyatt Smith Putnam County
- 2nd** *Can a Neuron Network Predict Mutation Types of a Variant Gene?*
Joel Feukou Berkeley County
- 1st** *AI Modeling of Group Decision-Making through Multi-Agent Collaboration*
Ainsley Gray Jefferson County

Division III, Systems Software

- 2nd** *Veritas.jl: Applying Formal Verification to a Dynamic Programming Language*
William Gibbs Jefferson County

Division III, Translational Medical Sciences

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2nd *Can AI Crack Cancer's Code?*

Joselyn Smith

Morgan County

1st *Investigating TRPV-1Dependent Genetic Survival in Glioblastoma: MAPK Signaling and Noncoding RNA Biomarkers Under Cytotoxic Stress*

Iqraa Zaman

Kanawha County