

76th CPS Exhibition of Student Research

Sunday, February 8, 2026 - PROGRAM

Griffin Museum of Science & Industry



11:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Elizabeth Copper briefly introduces herself as MC for the day and asks the audience to please stand for the National Anthem.

Elizabeth Copper introduces Chairperson of CPS Student Science Fair, Inc. Carrie Kaestner - Von Steuben, does a greeting (2 – 3 minutes)

Carrie Kaestner introduces Elizabeth Copper (Welcome & Brief comments)
Recognize any CPS Central Office Chief or officers and CPS administrators

Elizabeth Copper introduces Dr. Jessica Chavez - GMSI

Dr. Chavez introduces Dr. Corey Morrison - Dept of STEM

Dr. Corey Morrison introduces Dr. Glennie King - Science Content Specialist

Dr. King introduces Ruby Sheree Parnell-Booth, Chairperson of the Special Awards Committee and a teacher at Air Force Academy, and thanks Ruby for securing awards for the student participants.

Ruby Sheree Parnell-Booth greets the students, administrators, teachers, and invited guests and announces:

At the end of this Award ceremony, you will receive an award package containing your City STEM certificate, and possibly other special awards under \$50. The line leaders will escort you out to receive your awards packets after the ceremony to the Little Theater.

Ruby Sheree Parnell-Booth continues...Students, unless asked to come to the stage, **please stand when your name is announced**. Audience, please hold your applause until after all the names are read for a particular award category.

American Psychological Association, awards a certificate and 1 year complimentary membership to an outstanding student exhibitor in Behavioral science, **Please stand...**

Mona Willett - Lane Tech

Association of Women Geoscientists awards a certificate in geoscience to an outstanding student exhibitor, **Please stand...**

Oluwanifemi Ekemode - Air Force Academy H.S.

Broadcom Foundation Award is a \$250 Visa gift card and a Micropython on Raspberry Pi Pico Kit to an outstanding computer science exhibitor. Please **come** to the stage...

Om Kanabar - Taft High School Academic Center

Chicago Chapter of Charms, Inc. a \$50 cash award will be given to each of **two** outstanding female student exhibitors. Please **come** to the stage...

Oluwanifemi Ekemode - Air Force Academy H.S.

Genesis Valdes - Carver Military Academy

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Chicago Section STLE a total of **\$350** cash awards given to outstanding student exhibitors. Please **come** to the stage project:

Third Place: (\$100) split between **Elegance Reynolds & Jaliyah Norman Chalmers Elementary**

Second Place: (\$100) split between **Ryan Vargas & Preston Smith Decatur Classical**

First place: (\$150) **Muhammad Ahmed - Ebinger Elementary**

Copper's Encouragement Award a \$25 cash award given to a middle school first-time exhibitor. Please stand...

Mackenzie Franklin - OA Thorpe

Copper's Forensic Award a \$25 cash award for an outstanding project in Forensic science. Please Stand...

Gabi Sarka Capin - Audubon

Copper's Forensics Award a \$50 cash award to an outstanding high school science project. Please come to the stage...

Cynthia Chen - Walter Payton H.S.

Cynthia Slater Insurance Agency Award, a \$50 cash award given to an outstanding exhibitor. Please **come** to the stage...

Zoheerah Giwa - Sor Juana Elementary

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Davis Family Award (6) - \$50 gift cards to six outstanding student exhibitors. Please stand and remain standing until all names have been called...

Anton Westbrook - Newberry Academy

Sebastian Matthews - Poe Classical Elementary

Zoheerah Giwa - Sor Juana Elementary

Zaria Tisdale - Air Force Academy H.S.

Adya Bhushan - Lane Tech College Prep

Oluwanifemi Ekemode - Air Force Academy H.S.

FOGELSON FAMILY SPECIAL AWARD FOR MATHEMATICAL INVESTIGATION \$113 cash award will be given to each of two student exhibitors for outstanding mathematical investigations or application. Please **come** to the stage...

Mika Matsuyama - Walter Payton

Elena Whitford - Walter Payton

FOGELSON FAMILY FOUNDATION \$167 Cash award will be given to each of two student exhibitors for distinguished mathematical research. Please **come** to the stage...(split amount)

Alexander Milewski- Lenart Regional Gifted Center

Bogdan Jones - Walter Payton

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FOGELSON FAMILY FOUNDATION \$223 QED Cash award will be given to each of two student exhibitors for outstanding works of research in Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, mathematics in Engineering, and Mathematics in Computer-Related Sciences. Please **come** to the stage...

Gabriella Joew- Whitney Young

Jidapa Sopavanich - Walter Payton

Fogelson Family Foundation a \$317 cash award to a school/team for outstanding mathematics or related sciences. Please **come** to the stage...(split three ways)

Walter Payton H.S.

Gianna Award, Biodiversity and Plants \$25 cash awards given to outstanding middle school exhibitors with outstanding plant-related projects. Please come to the stage...

Gianna Award **Nadia Chaudhari - Burley Elementary**

Diversity and Plants **Payman Rajaie - Lane Tech**
Anton Westbrook - Newberry Academy

Griffin Museum of Science & Industry Two Family Passes, please stand
Elise Constano - Amundsen

Elijah Lang - Shoop Elementary

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Jesse Reyes a \$100 cash award to an outstanding first time exhibitor, Please **come** to the stage...

Nazik Akmatalyeva - Von Steuben

Kendrick D. Coleman Memorial Fund 6 - \$50 cash awards to middle school exhibitors and 3 - \$100 cash awards to high school exhibitors. **Please come to the stage...**

Yanira Mundo - Parkside STEAM Community Academy

Sebastian Matthews - Poe Classical

Barnaby Ramsey - Lenart Gifted

Edwin Rhodes - Earhart Elementary

Ayan Anandan - Bronzeville Academy

Ilerioluwa Oladunni - Bronzeville Classical

Jazlin Santos - Carver Military High School

Oluwanifemi Ekemode - Air Force Academy H.S.

Lemelson Early Inventor Prize \$100 cash award & certificate to a middle school student demonstrates an invention solving real-world problems (Society of Science sends the check) Please **come** to the stage...

Nadia Chaudhari - Burley Elementary

Luba Johnson Award \$100 cash award to each of a middle school and a high school outstanding exhibitor. Please come to the stage...

Middle School Layla Carter - Amelia Earhart

High School Anne Lyons - Chicago Agriculture

NASA Earth System Award a certificate to a science exhibitor who has insight into Earth's interconnected spheres. **Please Stand...**

Julia Kwiek - Northside College Prep

NOAA letter of congratulations, One certificate and letter of congratulations will be awarded to a student exhibitor with an outstanding project that emphasizes NOAA's mission of science, service and stewardship: "To understand and predict changes in climate, weather, ocean and coast. **Please stand...**

Ella Reyes - Decatur Classical School

National Technical Association Award \$50 to an outstanding student exhibitor. Please **come to** the stage...

Todd Kemp II- Lenart Elementary

Notre Dame DNA Learning Center Award, A full scholarship awarded to one of three summer programs at the University of Notre Dame's DNA Learning Center given to four exhibitors. **Please come to the stage...**

Abigail Urban - Beaubien
Adalee Hardy - Waters
Bella Rodriguez - Burroughs
Henry Smith - H.G. Solomon

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Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., a \$100 cash award to ten outstanding exhibitors. **Please come to the stage...**

Ifeoma Okolo - Jones College Prep
Isyla Thomas - Wadsworth Elementary
Khaleesi Geans - Burroughs Elementary
Ethan Knight - Carver Military Academy
Austin Dixon - Chicago H.S. of Agricultural Science
Romoan Banks & Maurice Terry (split) - Chalmers Elementary
Gabrielle McGee - Skinner North Elementary
Adam Harris - Earhart Elementary
Jaylin Lele - Parkside STEAM Community Academy

Regeneron Biomedical Science Award a \$375 cash award & certificate for a high school student with an impressive biomedical science & research with Regeneron core values. **Please come to the stage...**

Sophie Yi - Walter Payton High School

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Ricoh USA, Inc a certificate to a student exhibitor who addresses social and environmental challenges with a meaningful solution for a more sustainable future. **Please stand...**

Oluwanifemi Ekemode - Air Force Academy H.S.

Shannon Campbell Award a \$50 cash award given to two each of 2 middle school student exhibitors with an outstanding project. Please **come** to the stage...

Gabi Sarka Capin - Audubon

Rihanna Williams & Martine Somol - Franklin Fine Arts

Sharper Focus Foundation, a \$25 cash award given to each of four female student outstanding exhibitors and a \$10 gift card given to each of two male student outstanding exhibitors. **Please stand...**

Rosemerhy Reyes - Air Force Academy H.S.

Zaria Tisdale - Air Force Academy H.S.

Oluwanifemi Ekemode - Air Force Academy H.S.

Nia Seawood - Poe Classical

Michael Haynes - Robert A. Black Magnet School

Maverick Gamble - Robert A. Black Magnet School

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Slater Association, a \$50 cash award to an outstanding exhibitor. Please come to the stage...

Makenna Jones - Chicago World Language Academy

Society for In Vitro Biology, One certificate and membership in SIVB will be awarded to an 11th grade student exhibitor that has an outstanding project in the category of plant or animal in vitro biology or tissue culture.

Please stand...

Elena Diaz - Amundsen High School

Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge Awards top 10% of middle school One certificate of recognition and a digital packet invitation for an online application for the 2025 Thermo Fisher JIC national competition will be awarded to the top 10% middle school student exhibitors. Please stand..

1. Gabi Sarka Capin	Audubon
2. Rihanna Williams & Martine Somol	Franklin Fine Arts Center
3. Cienna Bernardo	Beaubien Elementary
4. Kaylee Raine Sager	Beaubien Elementary
5. Anjali Aakre	Decatur Classical School
6. Sahana Naik	Burley Elementary
7. Nadia Chaudhari	Burley Elementary
8. Lyuben Kyutukchiev	Beaubien Elementary
9. Joey Dahlberg & Logan Furtek	Ebinger Elementary School
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10. Henry Smith	Hannah G. Solomon Elementary
11. Sanaa Muhisani	Franklin Fine Arts Center
12. Om Kanabar	Taft High School Academic Center
13. Cora Fulton	Peterson Elementary School
14. Ella Reyes	Decatur Classical School
15. Isabella Talos	Hannah G. Solomon Elementary

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc Lincoln Park Chicago Chapter, One \$50 cash award will be given to each of two female student exhibitors with outstanding projects, Please **come** to the stage...

Oluwanifemi Ekemode - Air Force Academy H.S.

Peyton Haynes - Lenart Regional Gifted Center

US Air Force one package that includes a sling pack, Power Bank, USB flash memory drive, USB Car Charger and Official AF Certificate will be awarded to each of 7 student exhibitors that have outstanding projects in the Aerospace Science category. Please **come** to the stage

Maximillian Dan - Walter Payton

Jolie Boyke - Lane Tech

Water Environment Federation / Stockholm Junior Water Prize will be given to an outstanding student exhibitor with a project aimed at enhancing the quality of life through improvement of water quality, water resource management, or water and wastewater treatment. The projects may explore water issues on a local, regional, national, or global level using a research-oriented approach. Please **stand..**

Riley Coomer - Lane Tech

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Yale Science & Engineering Association letter of recognition to an 11th grade exhibitor. **Please stand..**

Mika Matsuyama - Walter Payton High School

Symposium and Essay Competition

IJAS Essay Finalists. For students who prefer to show their creativity through their writing, the IJAS Essay Contest gives students the opportunity to explore a topic of their choosing in an essay related to the 2026 essay theme “Driven by Discovery: Research is Key”

Please **come** to the stage.....

Middle School Division Winner - Bryan Munoz, Douglas Taylor Elementary School, Essay: *How Curiosity in Psychology Reshaped Modern Technology*

High School Division Winner - Danya Mendoza, Hubbard High School, Essay: *The Antibacterial Effect of Common Herbs*

ALL ESSAYS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE ILLINOIS JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE (IJAS) STATE COMPETITION at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois.

SYMPOSIUM-PAPER AWARDS, The following symposium participants scored the highest for their paper presentations on Thursday at the Symposium Sessions. We want to recognize the following students. **Please come to the stage when called...**

\$25 cash award goes to Evelyn Mooney, Lane Tech College Prep

\$25 cash award goes to Saskia Weisgerber, Lane Tech College Prep

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\$25 cash award goes to Ramona Harold, Amundsen High School

\$25 cash award goes to Colton Lestage, Amundsen High School

\$25 cash award goes to Elena Diaz, Amundsen High School

\$25 cash award goes to Nicholas Bernstein, Lane Tech College Prep

\$25 cash award goes to Mark Buenvenida, Lane Tech College Prep

\$25 cash award goes to Julia Kwiek, Northside College Prep

\$25 cash award goes to Adya Bhushan, Lane Tech College Prep

\$25 cash award goes to Elliana Cagua, Amundsen High School

\$25 cash award goes to Kaitlin Rebaya, Lane Tech College Prep

\$25 cash award goes to Eliana Fuchs, Lane Tech College Prep

For 3rd place, receiving a \$75 cash award, Samantha Borg-Breen, Lane Tech College Prep

For 2nd place - \$125 cash award goes to Yairely Marchan, Lane Tech College Prep

And finally, the 1st place - \$150 cash award goes to Riley Coomer, Lane Tech College Prep

Congratulations to all top Symposium-Paper presenters!

We will announce who will be advancing to the IJAS Paper Symposium after the Exhibition.

Danya Mendoz Hubbard \$100

Bryan Munoz Douglas Taylor \$100

The following students will represent CPSSSF at IJAS.

The following students are invited to attend the Illinois Junior Academy of Science Exposition at Southern Illinois University, in Carbondale, Illinois, on April 23, 24, & 25, 2026. Travel, lodging, and meals will be provided. Can these students and their parents please remain after the end of the awards ceremony so students can receive IJAS registration instructions and complete necessary CPS paperwork. Please come to the stage when your name is called...

Entrant First Name	Entrant Last Name	Exhibition Number	School Name
Oluwanifemi	Ekemode	130D	Air Force High School
Layla	Carter	105D	Amelia Earhart
Elliana	Cagua	134E	Amundsen High School
Elena	Diaz	46E	Amundsen High School
Ashley	Ellevog	27E	Amundsen High School
Yasleen	Galindo	22E	Amundsen High School
Ramona	Harold	5E	Amundsen High School
Jeanine	Valencia	214E	Amundsen High School
Noah	Wilson	82E	Amundsen High School
Sloane	Polkow	103D	Audubon
Kyla	Ford	103D	Audubon
Gabi	Sarka Capin	63E	Audubon
Cienna	Bernardo	51E	Beaubien Elementary
Lyuben	Kyutukchiev	28E	Beaubien Elementary
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Kaylee Raine	Sager	52E	Beaubien Elementary
Nadia	Chaudhari	143E	Burley Elementary
Sahana	Naik	221E	Burley Elementary
Ruthie	Rapoport	222E	Burley Elementary
Sky	Sims	23E	Carver Military Academy
Anne	Lyons	80E	Chicago Agriculture
Lorenzo	Manno	144E	Chicago World Language Academy
Anjali	Aakre	34E	Decatur Classical School
Niko	Massaro	35E	Decatur Classical School
Ella	Reyes	124E	Decatur Classical School
Muhammad	Ahmed	203E	Ebinger Elementary School
Joey	Dahlberg	158E	Ebinger Elementary School
Logan	Furtek	158E	Ebinger Elementary School
Violet	Holbrook	108E	Ebinger Elementary School
Camryn	Adams	108E	Ebinger Elementary School
Sanaa	Muhisani	232E	Franklin Fine Arts Center
Rihanna	Williams	231E	Franklin Fine Arts Center
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Martine	Somol	231E	Franklin Fine Arts Center
Katie	Mei	70E	Haines
Henry	Smith	36E	Hannah G. Solomon Elementary
Isabella	Talos	59E	Hannah G. Solomon Elementary
Anders	Aakre	44E	Lane Tech College Prep
Adya	Bhushan	112D	Lane Tech College Prep
Jolie	Boyke	2E	Lane Tech College Prep
Zachary	Caropreso	160E	Lane Tech College Prep
Riley	Coomer	135E	Lane Tech College Prep
Eliana	Fuchs	181E	Lane Tech College Prep
Yairely	Marchan	136E	Lane Tech College Prep
Evelyn	Mooney	159D	Lane Tech College Prep
Alison	Sanchez	182E	Lane Tech College Prep
Mona	Willett	20E	Lane Tech College Prep
Katherine	Wheat	30E	Newberry Academy
Maizie	Koentopp	4E	Northside College Prep
Julia	Korda	19E	Northside College Prep
Julia	Kwiek	97E	Northside College Prep
Madelyn	Samson	192E	OA Thorp Scholastic Academy
Cora	Fulton	109D	Peterson Elementary School
Olivia	Moy	16E	Skinner North
Matthew	Escuadro	16E	Skinner North
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Simona	Damiani	198E	Taft High School Academic Center
Om	Kanabar	88E	Taft High School Academic Center
Hanna	Redlinski	119E	Taft High School Academic Center
Nazik	Akmatalyeva	90E	Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center
Sehrish	Zahid	83D	Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center
Cynthia	Chen	92D	Walter Payton High School
Maximilian	Dan	1D	Walter Payton High School
John	Falciglia	91D	Walter Payton High School
Adrian	Gonzalez	89E	Walter Payton High School
Anaya	Joshi	152E	Walter Payton High School
Mika	Matsuyama	172M	Walter Payton High School
Yuxin	Shi	149E	Walter Payton High School
Jidapa	Sopavanich	169M	Walter Payton High School
Saatvik	Viniak	147E	Walter Payton High School
Constantin	Vukotic	170M	Walter Payton High School
Elena	Whitford	171M	Walter Payton High School
Sophie	Yi	48E	Walter Payton High School
Keith	Xin	85E	Whitney Young HS
Gabriella	Joew	167M	Whitney Young Magnet Academic Center

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The following students will advance to the IJAS State Paper-Symposium Sessions. Please come to the stage...

Nicholas Bernstein, Lane Tech College Prep

Daphne Suckow, Lane Tech College Prep

Saskia Weisgerber, Lane Tech College Prep

Lane Mendell, Amundsen High School

Elise Costanzo, Amundsen High School

Mark Buenvenida, Lane Tech College Prep

Samantha Borg-Breen, Lane Tech College Prep

Payman Rajaie, Lane Tech College Prep

Marielle Salazar, Lane Tech College Prep

Kaitlin Rebaya, Lane Tech College Prep

Iris Xhaferi, Lane Tech College Prep

Aaila Rafi, Lane Tech College Prep

Joey Li, Lane Tech College Prep

Colton Lestage, Amundsen High School

Sarveshwaraan Swaminathan, Northside College Prep

Sophia Michael, Amundsen High School

The following four students are invited to attend the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) for High School Only, in Columbus Ohio. Travel, lodging and meals will be provided.

Saatvik Viniak - Walter Payton

Cynthia Chen - Walter Payton

Keith Xin - Whitney Young

Maizie Koentopp - Northside College Prep

If one of the above finalists cannot attend, the following Alternates in order will be chosen to attend in their place.

Anders Aakre - Lane Tech

Julie Kwiek - Northside College Prep

Carmen Mahon will talk about accessing the Program book through QR Code and will give some remarks.

Elizabeth announces Malik Woolford

For all students selected to attend IJAS, the state STEM exhibition, on behalf of CPS, please come back to the stage at the conclusion of the ceremony to complete registration paperwork and receive their awards packet.

ISEF students and alternates will meet the photographer in front of the step and repeat for a group picture. A brief info session will take place after the photo. In auditorium

All student participants need their name badges to collect their award packets from the Little Theater downstairs. YOU WILL STAY IN LINE AND FOLLOW YOUR LINE JUDGES.

Parents, please stay in your seats until all students have left the auditorium.

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**Thank you for participating in the Annual Chicago Public
Schools Exhibition of Student STEM Research.**

This concludes the Awards Ceremony.