

SAAWA

AWARD CEREMONY



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THURSDAY MAY 30, 2024



Anila Midha
Founder & President



Subash Midha
Chairperson, Science Fair

SAAWA Executive Board



Aruna Saxena



Bharathi Nelanuthala



Sunita Saini



Bina Sabapathy



Rekha Chichara



Dr. Usha Tandon



Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker

David Schneider

Superintendent of Schools
Bethpage Union Free School District



Dave Schneider has been an administrator on the Bethpage Schools for 13 years. He began his career in Bethpage first as the Principal of JFK Middle School before becoming the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Technology. He is now in his 6th year as the Superintendent, having been appointed in July of 2018. He is focused on providing a caring learning community where students feel supported in their best efforts to find their individual pathway to a successful future. The Bethpage Schools are continuously ranked near the top in Nassau County and NYS. Mr. Schneider earned a BA in Geology from Binghamton University, an MA in Education and Special education from Touro College, a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration from LIU University and has completed his doctoral coursework in Learning and Teaching at Hofstra University. He began his career as an Earth Science and Science Research teacher in the NYC, Half Hollow Hills and Syosset before moving into administration as an Assistant Principal in Bellmore-Merrick.



Thanks

We are grateful to our Supporters, Sponsors, and Judges of the Middle and High School Science Fairs, as well as Essay Competition. Without their help we could not have organized any of these events.

Advisors

Dr. Ellen McCulloh, Erin Garland, Jennifer Verwys, Paul Paino, Paraskevy Zaferiou, Sean Mahoney, Shannon Kelly, Dr. Steven Gordon, Tami Cruz, Jeanette Collette, Christina Cardella

Supporters of SAAWA

Soni Midha, Dr. Bret Bennington, Dr. Bhavana M. Kohli, Dr. David McCulloh, Deepa Pasricha, Dr. Hetal Tangal, Dr. S. Shetty, Jitendra Chichara, Piyush Tangal, Pradeep Tandon, Shaker Nelanuthala, Shreya Pasricha, Dr. Sreenadh Jonnavithula, Dr. Unni Mooppan, Dr. Usha Tandon, Dr. P. Purwar

Photos by Akshat Kaul



SAAWA Distinguished Teacher's Award 2024



Chris Pollatos

Director of Science
at Bethpage School District

Mr. Chris Pollatos began his career in 1997 teaching science at Long Island City High School (Queens) and then at JFK Middle School (Bethpage). During his time at JFK Middle School, he began to expand the existing Science Research classes, making them an exciting experience where students had the opportunity to explore topics of interest, present at science fairs, and share their work with the community.

In 2011, Mr. Pollatos was asked to start a Science Research program at Bethpage High School. The program focused on developing research and 21st century skills for students, as well as creating a welcoming atmosphere for all to engage and explore topics in STEM. Since that time, the program has yielded a great number of award winning research projects with high ranking placements at competitions such as International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), Long Island Science and Engineering Fair (LISEF), Long Island Science Congress (LISC), Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS), SAAWA Science fairs, as well as semi-finalists in Regeneron Science Talent Search. His favorite night of the year is Bethpage's Annual Symposium, which showcases the STEM work of students in Science Research, Engineering, and the district Robotics teams to the entire community.

Currently, Mr. Pollatos is the proud Director of Science K-12, as well as the Data Protection Officer at Bethpage School District. Mr. Pollatos also serves as the treasurer for both the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair and the Long Island Science Congress organizations.



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SOUTH ASIAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Home of STEM PROGRAMS

10th SAAWA ESSAY WRITING CONTEST 2024

For all Middle and High School students of the Tristate area



ESSAY PROMPT

How will ChatGPT

(Generative Pre-training transformer)

change schools in the 2020s?

Description: Is the new chatbot the end of education as we know it? Or a useful new tool for learning? Please weigh in. We invite students to tell us how they think schools should respond to ChatGPT. Is chatbot mighty, if at times unreliable tool. Will ChatGPT rob students of their motivation, creativity and critical thinking OR lead to widespread cheating? On the other side, you can argue that A.I. is the future and schools should embrace it rather than restrict it.

500-word count maximum

Deadline to submit the essay is January 15th, 2024 by 5pm.

Professor Subash Midha:

subash.midha@gmail.com

Chairperson, SAAWA STEM Program

Dr. Steve Gordon:

Garden City Public Schools



www.saawa.org

South Asian American Women's Alliance

MLK Advancing the Dream Art Competition!

Open to all students: 6-8th Grade

DATE:

The competition will be open from January 8th to February 9th 2024

ELIGIBILITY:

Only one entry per student is permitted

Open to Tristate Middle school students (6- 8th grade)

No Fees

GUIDELINES:

Topic: "Advancing the Dream: A Nation of Freedom, Justice and Peace"

Medium: Paints - watercolors, acrylic, graphic pencil and Pastel (oil and chalk)

IMPORTANT NOTE: Your digital File must be a high-resolution image of no less than 300dpi (the higher the better) and must be less than 400 MB in size.

Include a brief (150 words maximum) "Artist Statement" explaining your art and what does the topics mean to you.

Please label your digital art file with title (5 words maximum) - For Example

"Artwork title- Artist Name"

Sponsored by the South Asian American Women's Alliance

Attendance is Free

1st Annual Science Research Teacher Symposium



Home of STEM Programs

**Topic: How to Strengthen Science Research
Education through a Teacher Learning Continuum?
A Panel Discussion with Distinguished Science Research
Teachers from Long Island High Schools Who Will Share
Their Knowledge!**

Date: May 1st, 2024

**Venue: Levittown Hall,
201 Levittown Pkwy,
Levittown, NY 11801**

Time: 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

A Delicious Buffet
Lunch will be
Served!

Contact:

Professor Subash Midha
subash.midha@gmail.com
Chairperson, SAAWA STEM Programs

MODERATOR

Ms. Kim Libertini, Jericho Schools

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Mr. Richard Kurtz, Former Research Director
Commack Schools

PANELISTS:

Ms. Veronica Ade, Wheatley Schools
Dr. Allyson J. Weseley, Roslyn Schools
Mr. Chris Pollatos, Bethpage Schools
Mr. Paul Paino, St. Anthony's High School



<https://youtu.be/3anfTMVVRWw?si=aEQJQmaHcpfS62Cv>

Find us at **SAAWA.org**



www.saawa.org

SAAWA STEM Institute
Annual Mini-Research Grant Award 2023-24
"Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Environmental Field"

We at SAAWA invite applications from all Middle (7th-8th) and High School (9th-11th) students to our Annual Mini-Research Grant Award 2023-24.

Funding is intended to offset the cost of materials and computer software expenses pertaining to a new research project in the "Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Environmental Field" starting in September 2023. The amount of the award is \$200 per project.

The applicants will be considered if they meet the following requirements:

1. Must be conducting a new environmental-based research project in the Fall of 2023 and have a Science Research Teacher as a Mentor.
2. Topics of the research must be in "Application of Artificial Intelligence in the resolution of environmental issues."

Although you may select any topic of your choice in the environmental field, here are a few suggestions:

- Water Management
- Deforestation
- Renewable Energy
- Food Security
- Air Pollution and Noise Pollution and your Health

A project description of up to 250 words must be submitted as part of the application.

[Application Link](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

The deadline for submission is November 22nd, 2023.

Awardees will be informed by December 1st, 2023.

The online application opens on November 1st, 2023.

For further questions, please contact Professor Subash Midha @
subash.midha@gmail.com



South Asian American Women's Alliance Home of STEM Program

www.saawa.org

Tristate area



Online Recreational Mathematics Contest 2024-2025

Open to all students from Grades 6 - 8
December 12 - 14, 2024



Join students who enjoy Mathematical puzzles,
Riddles, Games, Magic, Math, Humor, and more

For more information, please visit:

[BROCHURE](#) (click for link)

Professor Subash Midha
subash.midha@gmail.com

SAAWA Chairperson, STEM Program



SAAWA Science Fairs



SAAWA Science Fairs





Humanity in Science Awards

- Julian Elihu – Great Neck North High School
- Mannat Jain – Garden City High School
- Matthew James – Valley Stream Memorial Junior High School
- Partap Sidhu – Bethpage High School

Volunteer Service Awards

Outstanding Volunteer Service Award:

- Aidan Cazalet – St. Anthony's High School
- Kirpa Kaur – Mineola High School

Distinguished Volunteer Service Awards

- Andrew Agyeman Duah – St. Anthony's High School

Leadership Volunteer Service Awards

- Kelly Mullooly – Massapequa High School

Honorable Mention

- Ria Thomas – Mineola High School
- Gabriela Kuriakose – Commack High School
- Brady Lessing – St. Anthony's High School

SAAWA Middle School Science Fair 2024 Awards

Biology

First Place:

- Leah Putnam, Julia Torres and Mary Woodstock – Oyster Bay High School

Second Place:

- Liana Altamirano and Eva Crassa – Oyster Bay High School
- Jada Lin – Great Neck South Middle School
- Lorelei Fitzgerald, Leyla Montrose and Gabriella Sime – Howard T Herber Middle School
- Sophia Baez, Kamila Fernandez, Angelina Williams – Howard T Herber Middle School



Third Place:

- Tyler Nicodemi, Joshua Sat and Owen Yeung – Grand Avenue Middle School
- Anna Schellberg and Isabel Ziegler – Grand Avenue Middle School

Honorable Mention:

- Rylee Varian, Sydney Olivia and Victoria Sinnona – Long Beach Middle School
- Rebecca Molina – Copiague Middle School
- Regina Joseph and Raegan Wu – Great Neck South Middle School
- Jacquelyn Brienza, Arya Roopnarine and Madeline Singh – Howard T Herber MS
- Zoe Uy, Lucas Lau and Mia Solorzano – Woodland Middle School

Behavioral and Social Sciences

First Place:

- Isabella Huang, Elizabeth Kennedy and Diana Wang – Great Neck South Middle School

Second Place:

- Amelia Broege – Oyster Bay High School

Third Place:

- Tamara Isakharov – Oyster Bay High School
- Jaslyn Chan, Victoria Wong – Great Neck South Middle School

Honorable Mention:

- Benjamin Bajana, Zaaam Humayun and Kamren Milliner – Howard T Herber MS
- Eva Juretschko and Madeline Matthews – Oyster Bay High School
- Bhoomi Patel and Alayna Hussain – Woodland Middle School

Earth and Environmental Sciences

First Place:

- Noa Kaye and Thea Olmstead – Long Beach Middle School
- Anna Kaplun, Mia Tascarella and Milena Chomicz-Grobowska – Grand Avenue Middle School

Second Place:

- Patrick Mulvey and Aidan Cheung – Grand Avenue Middle School
- Shayna Tozer and Isabella Schembri – Long Beach Middle School

**Third Place:**

- Sara Kim, Ela Varela and Elizabeth O'Toole – Grand Avenue Middle School
- Troy Moriarty, Acacius Fischer and Nathaniel Nash – Long Beach Middle School
- Atharv Dhawan – Great Neck South Middle School
- AnaSophia Barco, Zara Loo and Arissa Evangelista – W.T. Clarke Middle School
- Katherina Khan and Amanda Liu – W.T. Clarke Middle School

Honorable Mention:

- Manaal Pramanik, Alisa Babu and Gabriella Arboleda – W.T. Clarke Middle School
- Enzo Garcia, David Henen and Matthew Ho – W.T. Clarke Middle School
- Angel Matthew, Joyce Zhang and Zaria Khan – Woodland Middle School
- Shreya Satpathy, Angel Sinaga and Ava Mathew – W.T. Clarke Middle School
- Hanna Joseph and Natalya Melnick – Woodland Middle School

Physical Science**First Place:**

- Tristan Bhika, Jayden Khan and Vikash Seelall – Howard T Herber Middle School

Second Place:

- Linda Yue and Andrea Chou – Great Neck South Middle School

Third Place:

- Dave Rubinchik – Great Neck South Middle School
- Daniel Dowling, Caedan McCord and Cornelius Collins – Woodland Middle School

Honorable Mention:

- Alex Rosenkrantz, Grady Blind, Aaron Levinsohn – Woodland Middle School
- Emma Chavez, Alisa Dela Cruz, Ysabella-Louise Aqui – Woodland Middle School
- Naveen Gopinathan, Ethan Harichand and labib Musad – Sewanhaka Middle School
- Joseph Mendoza – Copiague Middle School

SAAWA Ninth Grade Science Fair 2024 Awards**Biology****First Place:**

- Divya Jayam – The Wheatley School

Second Place:

- Michael Bank – The Wheatley School



Honorable Mention:

- Arjun Wanchoo and Jonah Sethna – Manhasset High School
- Miley Liu and Gabrielle Silvia – Manhasset High School
- Robert Lu and Yu Xiang Lin – Manhasset High School
- Micah Newman, Mila Profiloski and Arielle Kauderer – George W. Hewlett High School

Behavioral and Social Sciences

First Place:

- Emilee Youn and Vivian Lin – Roslyn High School

Second Place:

- Keshin Huang and Abigail Podwall – Great Neck North High School
- Bianca Darvish – Great Neck North High School

Third Place:

- Carina Dai, Kaylin Cho and Amanda Li – Roslyn High School
- Yuxuan Han, Harrison Albin and Riley Cheng – Great Neck North High School
- Claire Kim, Christopher Kim and Leon Xiong – Great Neck North High School
- Deuay Kong, Abigail Volovik and Mia Li – Great Neck North High School
- Jaden Kahen and Adrian Cheah – Great Neck North High School

Honorable Mention:

- Ruby Charnes, Sofia Carlese and Emma Balakhanev – Roslyn High School
- Zahara Bendelstein, Kendall Aufenanger & Abigail Bernstein – Great Neck North HS
- Luke Zhong and Nathan Zhong – Great Neck North High School

Earth and Environmental Sciences

First Place:

- Chiara D'Angelo and Paige Petroupolos – Manhasset High School
- Belen Vazquez and Krisha Wadhwa – Manhasset High School

Second Place:

- Li Zhang and William Pereira – Manhasset High School



Third Place:

- Aviv Paz, Max Fried and Ella Findling – George W. Hewlett High School

Honorable Mention:

- Roy Choi and Andrew Li – Manhasset High School
- Philip Bley and Seth Schwartz – Commack High School

Physical Science

First Place:

- Partap Sidhu — Bethpage High School

STEM

First Place:

- Thomas Landon, Nicolas Keyoung and Joshua Chung – Manhasset High School

Honorable Mention:

- Lyla Gaffoor and Shannon Bludoy – Lynbrook Senior High School

SAAWA High School Science Fair 2024 Awards

Biology

First Place:

- Catherine Dinh – Mineola High School
- Madeline Rong – The Wheatley School

Second Place:

- Aarav Minocha – Great Neck South High School
- Aafia Ahmed – Elmont High School
- Ariel River – George W. Hewlett High School

Third Place:

- Rohan Abraham – Herricks High School
- Isabel Ginsberg, Eva Karmazin and Victoria Brodsky – George W. Hewlett High School



Honorable Mention:

- Michelle Evangelista – Seaford High School
- Christina Webb Padilla – Mineola High School
- Jun Ru Chen – Jericho High School
- Leah Dong – Paul D. Schreiber High School
- Jaysukh Singh – Syosset High School
- Raheel Nabi – Syosset High School
- David Barzideh – Jericho High School
- Anais Bardizbanian, Giuliana Pamatat and Alexandra Gregory – Garden City HS

Behavioral and Social Sciences

First Place:

- Grace C. Liu – Syosset High School

Second Place:

- Sarah Fernbach – Roslyn High School
- Grace Kuriakose – Herricks High School

Third Place:

- Leah Heimowitz – Great Neck North High School
- Grace Andino, Mika Accardi and Leah Aboueid – Kellenberg Memorial High School

Honorable Mention:

- Elizabeth Mirharoon – North Shore High School
- Michael Petrizzo – Commack High School
- Alyssa Bhagan – The Wheatley School
- Sanam Mehta – Syosset High School
- Ava John- POB High School

Earth and Environmental Science

First Place:

- Isabel Gonzalez and Lucienne Keyoung – Manhasset High School
- Kahela Michel – Elmont Memorial High School

Second Place:

- Aidan Cazalet – St. Anthony's High School
- Chase Ridley – Elmont Memorial High School

**Third Place:**

- Thomas Fini and Matthew Kim – Manhasset High School
- Riya Saha – Bethpage High School
- Winston Zhou – Syosset High School

Honorable Mention:

- Maya Shah and Regina Huang – Manhasset High School
- Kelly Clarke and Alice Song – Manhasset High School
- Maxx Star and Shivani Persaud – George W. Hewlett High School
- Jonathan Chen and Ming Lu – Manhasset High School

Physical Science**First Place:**

- Chelsea Lim and Hannah Chang – Manhasset High School
- Nora Kane – Lynbrook High School

Second Place:

- Dylan Butler – George W. Hewlett High School

Third Place:

- Nandini Khaneja and Benson Chou – Great Neck South High School
- Aiden Sammy – Freeport High School

Honorable Mention:

- Shannon Higgins – Copiague High School
- Jerry Lin – Commack High School
- John Renz – Kellenberg Memorial High School
- Simon Yu – Lynbrook High School

STEM**First Place:**

- Mannat Jain – Garden City High School

Second Place:

- Julian Elihu – Great Neck North High School



Third Place:

- Mark Bai – Manhasset High School
- Vishrut Goyal – Jericho High School
- Emaan Tehseen – Elmont Memorial High School

Honorable Mention:

- Ken Weng – Syosset High School
- Shruti Singh – The Wheatley School
- Audrey Ren – Paul D. Schreiber High School

SAAWA 2024 Mini Grant Winners

- Michael Santos - Copaigue High School
- Madyson Gavilanes, Shirley Ren and Emma Ronai – St. Anthony's High School
- Partap Sidhu – Bethpage High School
- Lorelei Quinn and Grace Nolan – St. Anthony's High School
- Dean Chen – Paul D Schreiber High School
- Benjamin Ollendorff – Paul D Schreiber High School
- Ben Maciel-Seidman, Sarah Oh and Aaryan Rupesh – Bethpage High School
- Oscar Linares – Freeport High School
- Richard Li Xu and Colin Hu – Great Neck South High School
- Ken Weng – Syosset High School

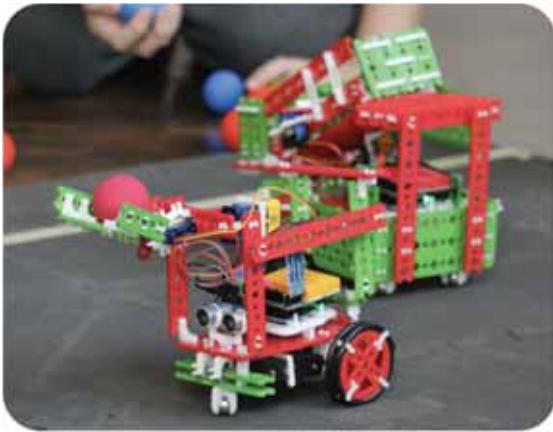
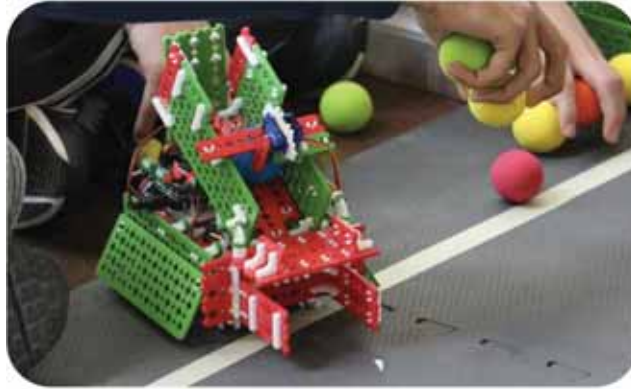
SAAWA STEM Teacher's mini grants

- SAAWA sponsored Stem Club Startup in Bethpage Middle School
- SAAWA sponsored Tower Garden in Garden City Middle School to grow greens and herbs indoors



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SAAWA Institute of Excellence in STEM Program



Robotics Engineering Program Summer 2024

**In collaboration with
SnappyXO**

www.snappyxo.com

**Learn Mechanical Design,
Practical Electronics, and
Microcontroller Programming**

**Each student will receive a
SnappyXO Advanced
Robotics Kit V2 to keep.**

SAAWA Robotics Program - Summer 2024

Students in **7-9th** grade will learn STEM concepts and the design process in this program. They will apply these skills to design, build and program robots using SnappyXO, a fun, educational robotics platform invented here on Long Island at Stony Brook University.

Dates: July 8th to July 19th

Location: Bethpage High School

10 Cherry Avenue

Bethpage NY 11714

Duration: 2 Weeks, M-F 10am-2pm

Program fee: \$550 (+\$38.73 Eventbrite fee) per student

For more info, please contact Professor Subash Midha
subash.midha@gmail.com