

May 18, 2026 State Science Day News Release

Upper Miami Valley Students Compete in Virtual State Science Day

Fifty-five students from fourteen local schools recently competed successfully in the 2026 Ohio Academy of Science State Science Day held Saturday, May 16th of this year, hosted by The Ohio State University in Columbus. Almost 700 students from across the state participated in the competition. Students presented independent research projects in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. All of the local students did exceptionally well with twenty-five of them receiving Superior ratings.

Receiving Superior ratings were: from Arcanum-Butler – Kayla Harrison, Kamryn Martin, Jean Pitman, Timothy Johnson, Chloe Rieman; from DeColores Montessori – Sofia Royer; from Graham MS – Mackenzie Crooks, Xavier Garcia, Liam Kizer, Jase Rogers, Alice Rogers, Mallorie Erter; from Jackson Center – Tysen Gariety, Sam Scott; From Lehman HS – Bailey Cotterman, Nora Lamm; from Miami East – Kara Hale, Jackson Gray, Elizabeth Iames, Asher Vonderembse; Tippecanoe HS – Aubrey Ernst, Joshitha Kondapalli; Tippecanoe MS – Emily Riehl, Max Leshner; L. T. Ball Intermediate, Tipp City – Aisha Nair;

Nine students earned special project awards and/or scholarships: Ohio Psychological Association Awards in Behavioral Science to Jean Pitman 1st place \$150, to Kara Hale, 2nd place, \$100 and to Reese Barger, 3rd place; American Society of Civil Engineers Award to Joshua Leis, Honorable Mention; Ohio State University College of Medicine Future Physician – Scientist Awards to Emma Keller, Lehman HS, 2nd place, \$250, Ben Gehret, Anna HS, 2nd place, \$250 and Kaelin Stewart, Upper Valley Career Center, Honorable Mention; American Meteorological Society Award in Physics to Max Leshner Tippecanoe MS, 1st place, \$250; and an Ohio Tuition Trust Authority 529 scholarship to Alishe Nair, L.T. Ball Intermediate, Tipp City, \$1,000. State Science Day multi-year participants were also recognized, including Aubrey Ernst, Tippecanoe HS - 6 years.

Upper Miami Valley Science Days provides the opportunity for students, grades 5-12, in Champaign, Darke, Miami and Shelby Counties, to complete and present original scientific research. This program is organized and supported by many area schools, teachers, parents, Edison Community College, and a number of businesses, professionals, community organizations, and other interested individuals. For additional information, go to the UMVSD website at: www.ohioumvsd.com