

Junior High Science Olympiad Brings Home First Place Trophy from Regionals, Team Advances to State Competition!!!

By: Mrs. Tuanette Hulet (Coach)

Like so many other things this school year, the Junior High and High School Science Olympiads looked quite a bit different this year than how they previously had. Instead of getting to go to their respective college campuses and competing with other schools in a variety of events, every single one at the junior high level became relegated to an online test-based event, held only in our school, on February 27, 2021. Events usually run the gamut from paper-pencil based tests, to full blown builds, with many activities being in-between hybrids of the two asking students to conduct hands-on experiments in real time and then apply what they have just learned to solve a problem or answer questions, and that is a big part of what draws our students in. Our team, while somewhat saddened by this change, decided they would still take on the challenge and compete in the activity, and compete they did! *With their perseverance, they were able to win our district's first, first place trophy, in Science Olympiad history!* The team as a whole, advances on to our state's online competition, Saturday, April 10, 2021! This is the Junior High team's second year in a row making it to state competition, though state was unfortunately canceled last year due to Covid. Congratulations to each and every one of the team members: freshmen--Kelsey Crabtree, Kierra de Jong, Daltyn Sperry, Gage Iddings, Landon Woodward; eighth graders—Payton Adler, Katelyn Jones, Gunnar McCrary; seventh graders—Gavin Humphrey, Collin Mason, Jeremy Pittsenbarger, Kavinly Rutledge. This is Gage and Kierra's third consecutive year making it to state in this competition. This is Kelsey, Daltyn, Landon, Katelyn, Gunnar, and Payton's second. Way to represent our school panthers, GO TEAM! Individual event honors are posted below, and as you can see, they are sporting A LOT of bling this year with all these medals!

1st Crime Busters—Kelsey Crabtree, Kierra de Jong
1st Experimental Design—Gage Iddings, Katelyn Jones, Gunnar McCrary
1st Food Science—Gunnar McCrary, Kavinly Rutledge
1st Heredity—Kelsey Crabtree, Gage Iddings
1st Meteorology—Katelyn Jones, Collin Mason
1st Ornithology—Katelyn Jones, Gunnar McCrary
1st Reach for the Stars—Gage Iddings, Daltyn Sperry
1st Road Scholar—Daltyn Sperry, Landon Woodward
1st Write It/CAD It—Gavin Humphrey, Gage Iddings

2nd Circuit Lab—Gavin Humphrey, Collin Mason
2nd Density Lab—Collin Mason, Landon Woodward
2nd Disease Detectives—Kelsey Crabtree, Kierra de Jong
2nd Dynamic Planet—Katelyn Jones, Gunnar McCrary
2nd Fossils—Payton Adler, Daltyn Sperry
2nd Game On—Payton Adler, Jeremy Pittsenbarger
2nd Machines—Gavin Humphrey, Collin Mason
2nd Water Quality—Kavinly Rutledge, Jeremy Pittsenbarger

3rd Anatomy & Physiology—Kierra de Jong, Katelyn Jones

I would like to give a special thank-you to all the people who worked to make this happen, because without them, it simply would not have been possible. First, to Ms. Alyssa Lambert, who volunteered to take on a plethora of responsibilities she did not have to, to help me with the dueling Science Olympiads held on the same day but at different times, and becoming an assistance coach in the process. And, with that, to Mr. Bill Pottorff, for supporting our teams so much and allowing her to do so. Next, to Mrs. Arah Gay and Mrs. Heather Jones, who checked all of our technology the day before competition to make sure everything was running smoothly and all needed programs were installed, thus making it so that Ms. Lambert could more easily trouble-shoot the technological issues that came up that day. Mrs. Gay and Ms. Lambert also helped our CAD (Computer Aided Design) teams figure out their program when I could not. Mr. Josh Jeffries was much appreciated too, as he volunteered of his time after school on several days to work with and encourage some of our teams as well. Finally, the parents, who not only dutifully picked up their kids every night after school and even on some Mondays and Saturdays, but without them, would have made it impossible for us to run on competition day when I could not be in three places at once. A huge thank-you to the Junior High parents who came in and helped get kids where they needed to go—Jessica Bumgarner, Tyna Sperry, Heather Jones, Katie Iddings, Amy McCrary, Stephanie Mason and Gabe Crabtree—you were all very appreciated, thank you for all doing everything you did and giving up your time on a Saturday!