

PIONEER SCHOOL DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pioneer Middle School Science and Engineering Fair

The Annual Pioneer Middle School Science and Engineering Fair continues to build momentum after a year-long hiatus. This live event was the first held after the lifting of COVID restriction and had a strong turnout of students, parents, and community members. Winners of this event moved on to compete at the Discovery Science & Engineering Fair at Pacific Lutheran University. Starting in 2018 with one project winning an award at this regional level, Pioneer students returned to the Discovery Regional Science and Engineering Fair with 11 projects and 12 students placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd as well as winning numerous Specialty Awards. Projects included engineering innovations, aquaculture, and marine life studies, and other experiments that tested student-generated hypotheses.

A Pioneer Middle School student has also won an award at the Washington State Science & Engineering Fair, marking a first for the Pioneer School District. The Science Department at Pioneer looks forward to continued success at next year's competitions and the academic confidence Science Fair inspires in its students. Congratulations to these future scientists and engineers!



From Left, Standing: Brenda Roth, Tim Smith, Ruth Hockensmith, Tawan Benedict, Matthew Pursey, Steve Valley. Sitting Alysha Bray, Drew Helser, Ryann Simmons Jr., Allee Goos, Diego Zepeda-Soto, Courtney Koth, Santiago Barrios-Garfias. Not pictured: Zoey Baze, Julia Elkins, Lillian Kight

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Discovery (Western Washington Regional) Science & Engineering Pioneer Middle School -Fair Winners 2022

6th Grade

| Awards | Name | Project |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| 1st, Discovery & EPA Friends of Earth | Lillian Kight | Does PH Level Affect Plant Growth? |
| 2nd, Discovery Innovations | Diego Zepeda-Soto | Snake catcher!! |
| 2nd, Discovery Biomedical/Dental/Health | Julia Elkins & Zoey Baze | Robotic Hand |
| 3rd, Safety First Award | Allee Goos | Effect of UV light on fishing line strength |

7th Grade

| Awards | Name | Project |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| 1st, Discovery & EPA Friends of Earth | Matthew Pursey | Effectiveness of Water on Different Parts of Shellfish. |
| 2nd, Discovery & EPA Friends of Earth | Courtney Koth | Behavioral Reaction of Littleneck Clams to Heat |
| 2nd, Safety, Discovery Innovations Best Hand-Made Model | Ryann Simmons Jr. | Cow Bottle Feeder |
| 3rd, Discovery Innovations | Santiago Barrios-Garfias | The Stroop Effect in Different Languages |
| 3rd, Discovery and EPA Friends of Earth | Drew Helser | The Effect of Light on Salmon Behavior |

8th Grade

| Awards | Name | Project |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| 2nd, * WSSEF Outstanding Research | Tawan Benedict | How Does Temperature Effect Filtering Rates on Shellfish |
| 3rd, Discovery & EPA Friends of Earth | Alysha Bray | Can Lactic Acid Monitor the Stress in Shellfish? |

Washington State Science Fair

| Award | Name | Project |
|---|---------------|---|
| 3rd Place and Special Awards: Animal Science and Marine Science | Courtney Koth | Behavioral Reaction of Littleneck Clams to Heat |