

Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School Senior Research Students Finish Strong During an Impressive Year

Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School is thrilled to announce that three of its high school research seniors represented the district on the international stage when Syon Khatter, Yoav Muscal and Megan Lee were selected to present at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles, California, from May 11-17, 2024.

Regeneron ISEF, a program of Society for Science for over 70 years, is the world's largest pre-college STEM competition. It provides a global stage for the world's best and brightest young scientists and engineers, fostering the next generation of STEM leaders. Each May, more than 2,000 students from roughly 70 countries and territories are selected as finalists and offered the opportunity to compete for approximately \$9 million in awards and scholarships.

Syon, Yoav and Megan qualified for the international fair by winning their respective categories at the regional or state level science and engineering fairs (LISEF/NYSSEF). The district is proud to announce that both Syon and Yoav won grand awards in their respective categories.

Syon Khatter: Third-place winner in the Behavioral and Social Sciences category

Project Title: *Investigating Impacts of Sucralose on Hedonic Feeding Behaviors in C. elegans as a Model for Prevention and Treatment of Obesity and Eating Disorders*

Yoav Muscal: Fourth-place winner in the Earth and Environmental Sciences category

Project Title: *Using Machine Learning Species Distribution Modeling as a Novel Approach to Efficiently Predict Forest Development Suitability*

Megan Lee also represented the district at ISEF, further showcasing the strength of POBJFK's research program. The three Regeneron ISEF Finalists have been part of the POBJFK Research Program throughout their high school careers, conducting their research projects under the supervision of lead research teacher Raymond Tesar, and research teacher Rohe Sheikh.

"I continue to be both humbled and amazed by the success of our research students and their dedication to the pursuit of new knowledge," Tesar said. "It has been a phenomenal four-year journey with Syon, Yoav and Megan. Their accomplishments are a testament to their hard work and the support from our research teachers, school administration, and the POB community."

