

MSM Students Deliver at the 2022 STEAM Expo

The 2022 Nevada County STEAM Expo took place at the end of March. The Math portion, called TechTest Jr., is a Math and Critical Thinking Competition for 5th through 8th graders. Over 100 students from 12 schools in the county participated. Fourteen students from MSM participated. They included:

5th Grade: Kameron Scott, Emmanuel Partida

6th Grade: Chase Stevens, Natalie Leida, Colt James, Felix Wagner, Karlee Turner, Nathan van Bommel

7th Grade: Corbin Brose, Jackson Hodgson, Aidan Mabry

8th Grade: Spencer Thauberger, Clara Rose, Thomas Billingsley

MSM came home with a 6th place finish in the 5th grade division (Kameron), a 1st place (Corbin) and 2nd place (Jackson) finish in the 7th grade division, and a 2nd place (Spencer), 3rd place (Clara) and 4th place (Thomas) finish in the 8th grade division. In addition, in the 7th/8th grade combined division Spencer took 2nd overall and Clara took 3rd overall, earning them each a STEM prize.

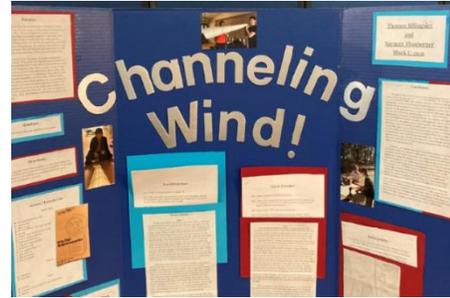


The 5th/6th grade participants, from left to right: Felix, Karlee, Natalie, Kameron, Chase, Colt and Nathan (not shown).



The 7th/8th grade participants, from left to right: Corbin, Jackson, Spencer, Clara and Thomas.

A second part of the Expo was scientific experiments, which consists of multiple categories. Thomas Billingsley and Spencer Thauberger entered their project in the Scientific Inquiry division. They took 1st place and qualified to move on to the State Science Fair competition. Their experiment was “Using the Venturi Effect to Increase the Effectiveness of Wind-Powered Energy Generation”.



Their thesis was that you could use the Venturi effect to increase the velocity of the wind, thereby resulting in fans spinning faster and generating more electricity. This would also allow the fans to be at ground level, rather than way up in the air, as most are. This dramatically reduces the cost of generating electricity. As we move to more battery-operated tools and vehicles, the need for generating massive amounts of electricity cheaply and cleanly is important.



Spencer and Thomas proudly display their 1st place award in Scientific Inquiry for their “Using the Venturi Effect to Increase the Effectiveness of Wind-Powered Energy Generation”