

## Science Fair Teacher of the Year – 2023 - Dr. Stephanie Kokoszka

Stephanie Kokoszka earned Bachelors degrees in Criminal Justice and Forensic Chemistry from Lake Superior State University and her Ph.D in Chemistry from Wayne State University. She is currently an AP Chemistry teacher at Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School in Bloomfield Hills where she has been the advisor to several science clubs and a mentor to students that are interested in research outside of the classroom since 2016.

When Dr. Kokoszka first became the Research Club advisor, it had less than 20 members with only six girls. To generate more interest in STEM and research among students, she guides the club officers as they make video presentations to promote the Science Research Club, organize weekly meetings, connect students with alumni scientists for mentorship, and help members find research topics, prepare posters, and improve presentation skills. By 2022, the Cranbrook Science Research Club membership had increased to 68, including 29 girls.

From 2018-2022, Dr. Kokoszka sponsored 40 student projects in the Metro Detroit Science Fair, including eight Grand Award winners, and five first place winners. The Grand Award winners went on to win many prestigious awards at the International Science and Engineering Fair, including "best in the world" in 2021 for Michelle Hua, a Cranbrook sophomore at the time. For the 2023 Fair, Dr. Kokoszka is the sponsor for 16 students.

During weekends and breaks from school, Stephanie loves to read, run, hike, travel, and camp with her husband, two young kids, and two rambunctious dogs.