

KATALIN MARTONNÉ PÁLFALVI



Batthyány Lajos High School in Nagykanizsa

Address: 23 Rozgonyi Street, H-8800 Nagykanizsa, Hungary

TEACHING CAREER IN BRIEF

My career choice was shaped at an early age by a strong interest in the natural sciences. I completed my secondary education at Zrínyi Miklós Grammar School in Zalaegerszeg, and in 1993 I was admitted to the Faculty of Science at Janus Pannonius University, where I studied biology and chemistry. During my university years, I became involved in research at the Department of Ecology and Zoogeography, focusing on the study of Isopoda crustaceans. Through this work, I gained both laboratory and field experience, and in 1997 I was awarded third place at the National Scientific Students' Associations Conference.

I graduated in 1998 and began teaching at Batthyány Lajos Grammar School in Nagykanizsa. Teaching quickly became a defining vocation for me, which led me to further my qualifications by obtaining an additional degree in chemistry at the University of Veszprém. Over more than two decades in education, my main focus has been preparing students for final exams and university entrance, as well as supporting talent development. My students have consistently achieved strong results in academic competitions. For several years, I have also led an advanced chemistry study group in the city, as well as a chemistry club for younger students.

In addition to my school responsibilities, I actively participate in organizing professional programs. Since 2010, I have led the eco-school initiative and the school garden program at my institution. I am particularly proud of the "Young Researchers Club" and the "Magic Forest" program, where students acquire the foundations of scientific thinking through playful, experiment-based activities, while also developing their cooperation and social skills. In collaboration with the Szabolcs Szabó Foundation, we began writing a collection of experimental tasks two years ago, and the first two volumes of a supporting book for primary school teachers of environmental studies and science have already been completed.

I also play an active role in the wider professional community: for more than ten years I have served as a regional coordinator of the Curie Environmental Protection and Chemistry Memorial Competition, and I am the county coordinator of the Irinyi Competition. I contribute as a task writer and reviewer for the Mária Szebenyi Chemistry Memorial Competition. I regularly serve as a chair of school-leaving examination boards and hold a mentor teacher qualification, supervising the teaching practice of trainee teachers.

Continuous professional development and maintaining strong professional relationships are important to me, so I regularly attend training courses and conferences. My work was recognized in 2019 with the "My Teacher is My Role Model" award, and in 2025 I received the Eszter Pécsi Teacher Award.

PUBLICATIONS

https://tehetsegpont.sooswrc.hu/versenyek/szebenyi-maria/versenyfeladatok_eredmenyek

School year 2025/2026 – Grade 8

School year 2024/2025 – Grade 7

School year 2023/2024 – Grades 11–12

School year 2022/2023 – Grade 10

Sustainability Theme Week:

<https://www.fenntarthatosagi.temahet.hu/letoltheto-oratervek/egyutt-atermeszetben>

SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

Judit Tolnai

- Biology OKTV (National Secondary School Academic Competition) (2009–2010)
8th place

Máté Tóth

- National Scientific Students' Conference (2020–2021)
4th–6th place

Judit Tolnai

- Dr. Zoltán Árokszállásy National Biology and Environmental Competition (2009–2010)
1st place

Csaba Soós

- Irinyi János National Secondary School Chemistry Competition (2006–2007) 9th place

Balázs Bendegúz Péter

- Irinyi János National Secondary School Chemistry Competition (2025–2026) 7th place

Máté Tóth, Ramóna Györkös, Ádám Dobó

- Pál Bugát National Complex Science Competition (2019–2020)
1st place

Eszter Lucia Domján

- Dr. János Szentágothai Biology Competition (2021–2022)
1st place

Anna Flóra Nagy, Jázmin Nóra Varga, Vanda Lujza Vastag

- Curie Environmental Competition (2009–2010)
1st place