



Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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Two Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students Tie for First Place and Win Full Scholarships at University of Maryland Math Competition; 23 More Earn Honorable Mention

Silver Spring, MD—Charlie Pasternak of Bethesda and Samuel Zbarsky of Rockville, seniors in the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, tied for first place at the 34th Annual University of Maryland Math Competition. Each was awarded a full four-year scholarship plus expenses at the University of Maryland College Park, and will split approximately \$1,000 in prize money for earning the high score among all contestants, as well as among those from Montgomery County. In this same contest in 2011, Zbarsky was awarded first place and a full scholarship, while Pasternak earned third place and a full scholarship; in 2009, Zbarsky won third place and a full scholarship.

This contest, open to all high school students in Maryland and the District of Columbia, is composed of two parts. Part I, administered on October 24, consists of 25 multiple choice-type questions to be completed in 75 minutes, and Part II, administered on November 28, is made of five proof-type questions with two hours for completion. Roughly the top ten percent of the approximately 2,500 students who took Part I qualified to participate in Part II. Results from both parts were then considered together to determine final overall standings, and results were announced on December 30.

Besides the first through third place recipients, 38 Honorable Mention winners were named. Of these, 23 (nearly two-thirds) were Blair Magnet students: Alexander Bourzutschky, William Cai, Patrick Chao, Catherine Xue, and Alexander Zhang of Potomac; Adam Busis, Jason Hyun, and Gabriella Studt of Silver Spring; Diwakaran Ilangovan, Bob Ma, Jingjing Xu, and Dennis Zhao of Gaithersburg; Ramya Durvasula, Cynthia Liu, Eric Lu, Eric Neyman, Sachin Pandey, Jessica Shi, Michael Winer, Scott Wu, Hardy Xu, and Victor Xu of Rockville; and Wenqing Xu of Takoma Park.

Every year since 1998, at least one student from the Blair Magnet has won first through third place (all three in 2003-2005), and at least 14 have been awarded Honorable Mention.

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2012 first place winner Charlie Pasternak graciously comments, “I am thrilled to cap my years at Blair by sharing a win at the University of Maryland Math Competition with my classmate and good friend Sam Zbarsky. It is a testament to the teachers at Blair that so many of this year's winners and Honorable Mentions are Blair students.”



Charlie Pasternak (left) and Sam Zbarsky (right), of the Montgomery Blair Science, Math, and Computer Science Magnet Program, tie for first place in the 2012 University of Maryland Math Competition.

About The Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation

This organization was founded by a group of concerned students, teachers, administrators, and alumni in 2008. Its purpose is to promote science, mathematics, and computer science education by supporting the Magnet Program at Montgomery Blair High School in its efforts to develop resources and refine practices needed to provide a rigorous and enriched education for students, staff, and the community at large. The Foundation is incorporated in the state of Maryland and is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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