



MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL MAGNET
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**Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students
Place in State Convention of Maryland Junior Classical League and
Receive Recognition in National Latin Exam**

Silver Spring, MD—Three teams of Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program students each placed at the annual State Convention of the Maryland Junior Classical League (MJCL) in Easton, MD. 2015 graduates Kevin Ho and William Lu, both of Bethesda, took second place in Latin Level 4 (Advanced) competition. Freshmen Kevin Jiang, Elliot Kienzle, and Elijah Schulman, all of Bethesda, earned first place in Latin Level 1 competition, while fellow freshmen Akash Canjels of Silver Spring and Theodore Tosini of Bethesda captured third place in the same level of competition. The MJCL was created for Maryland middle and high school students and teachers from across the state who are interested in the classics—Greek, Latin, Rome, mythology, etc. This two-day event includes games, workshops, skits, and a quiz bowl-type competition, called a Certamen.

For the MJCL, during the school year students participate in periodic Certamen, with the final one held at the state convention. The questions are wide-ranging and pertain to Latin and all things classical. Last year, Ho and Lu earned first place in Latin Level 3 competition, and 2014 Blair Magnet graduates Shira Gorin and Andrew Simler captured first place in Latin Level 4 competition. Four years ago, the first year that Blair participated in the MJCL, Gorin and Simler earned first place in Latin Level 1 competition. In addition, Ho has served as president of the MJCL this school year, the first Montgomery County student to be elected to this post, and was awarded the Hazel Bratt Scholarship, which recognizes the most outstanding Blair Latin student. Blair Latin teacher Mr. Robert Johnson, III serves as their team sponsor.

Mr. Johnson praises the teams and thanks his chaperones, “It has been a most successful year for the Blair Latin students. They have been fabulous. I’d like to thank Mr. Andrew Schulman for chaperoning our Latin Level 1 team at the two-day event, and super big thanks to Nina Uzick and Dan Gorin for chaperoning all the contestants each month before the state convention.”

Blair Latin students also took the National Latin Exam (NLE) this spring, which is a 40-question multiple choice test that is sponsored by the American

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Classical League and the National Junior Classical League. It contains questions on Latin grammar and comprehension, mythology, literature, history, and geography. Of the 34 students who participated in the competition, twenty earned gold medals and ten were awarded silver. This year is the fourth consecutive year that Ho has earned a gold medal in this exam.

Ho reflects on the Blair Latin students' performance on the NLE this year, "I think this year's 30 medals out of 34 test takers was the highest percentage ever for Blair. Even more impressive is the fact that we had five or six students who no longer take Latin, but self-studied and still received medals."



Blair Magnet 2015 graduates (from left) Kevin Ho and William Lu captured second place in the Latin Level 4 (Advanced) competition at the State Convention of the Maryland Junior Classical League. Last year, they earned first place in the Latin Level 3 competition, as seen above. (Photo courtesy of Ms. Nina Uzick)

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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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