



Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students Place and Longtime Coach Mr. Eric Walstein Honored at American Regions Mathematics League Contest

Silver Spring, MD—Seventy-five high school and middle school students participated on Montgomery County teams in the 37th Annual American Regions Mathematics League (ARML) Competition at Pennsylvania State University on June 1-2. One team of high school students, mainly from the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, captured 9th place internationally in A Division Competition.

The members of this winning team include (all from the Blair Magnet unless indicated in parentheses): Jack Andraka (Anne Arundel County); Brendan Berger, Eric Neyman, Michelle Noh, Victor Xu, and Samuel Zbarsky of Rockville; Adam Busis, Andrew Hu, Jason Hyun, and Gabriella Studt of Silver Spring; Christopher Hazard (Winston Churchill High School); Diwakaran Ilangovan and Bob Ma of Gaithersburg; Charlie Pasternak of Bethesda; and Alexander Smith (Charles County).

Blair Magnet mathematics teacher, Mr. Eric Walstein, and Dr. Brian Hunt of the University of Maryland College Park coached and selected the 75 students for the five county-wide teams based on rigorous weekly evening practices and testing during the spring. Mr. Walstein has served as coach of the Blair math teams for the last 37 years. He, along with Takoma Park Middle School math teacher and Blair Magnet alumna Ms. Sarah Manchester, Walt Whitman High School math teacher Ms. Susan Wildstrom, and parent chaperones, accompanied this year's teams to the competition. Mr. Walstein praises the winning team, "This was an extremely difficult test this year, and the members of the team were pleasantly surprised with their results. The students all did a great job, especially based on the difficulty of the questions."

In addition to the Blair team's success, Mr. Walstein was presented with the ARML Samuel L. Greitzer Distinguished Coach Award for distinguished service to a regional team. Mr. Mike Curry, ARML Assistant Executive Director and Eastern Site Director, recognized Mr. Walstein, "Eric is one of the very few people to have won both the Greitzer and the Kalfus Awards [Alfred Kalfus Founder's Award for

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long-term service to ARML]. He has had a very distinguished career coaching the Montgomery [County] teams. The Montgomery [County] teams have won the event on several occasions in the past, and this is due to the hard work ethic that Eric brings to the teams that he coaches.”

Team member Pasternak expresses his gratitude to Mr. Walstein, “Mr. Walstein has given so much to the math team over the years. It will feel strange when he’s retired. We will truly miss him.”



Blair Magnet math teacher, Blair Math Team Coach of 37 years, and ARML 2012 Samuel L. Greitzer Distinguished Coach Award recipient, Mr. Eric Walstein. (Photo courtesy of Jean Rager)



Members of the Montgomery A team at the 37th Annual ARML Competition, from left to right: Charlie Pasternak, Brendan Berger, Michelle Noh, Mr. Eric Walstein, Diwakaran Ilangovan, Alexander Smith, Jack Andraka, Eric Neyman, Bob Ma, Victor Xu, and Samuel Zbarsky. Photo courtesy of Marli Pasternak)

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About The Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation

This organization was founded by a group of concerned students, teachers, administrators, parents, 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 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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