



Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Student to Compete in National Who Wants to Be a Mathematician Competition; A Record Fifteen Qualify for Second Round

Silver Spring, MD—Dennis Zhao of Gaithersburg, a junior in the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, earned a spot as one of ten students across the country, and the sole one from the mid-Atlantic region, to compete at the 2014 National Who Wants to Be a Mathematician contest, which will be held in Baltimore on January 16. Over 2,000 students participated in two qualifying rounds of this contest, which involved questions from algebra, geometry, the history of mathematics, probability, and trigonometry. The winner of the final round will receive a \$5,000 prize, as well as a matching monetary prize for his or her high school; the second-place winner, as well as his or her high school, will receive a \$3,000 prize. This contest is operated by the American Mathematics Society, with this organization providing the cash prizes, as well.

Fifteen students from the Blair Magnet qualified for the second round of competition last month: Alexander Bourzutschky, Connie Xu, and Alexander Zhang of Potomac; Adam Busis and Gabriella Studt of Silver Spring; Sambuddha Chattopadhyay of Olney; Jeremy Du, Cynthia Liu, Eric Neyman, Sachin Pandey, Pratik Rathore, Victoria Tsai, Michael Winer, and Victor Xu of Rockville; Dennis Zhao of Gaithersburg. The top ten scorers from this round were selected to compete at the national level.

Blair Math Team Coach and Blair Magnet teacher Mr. David Stein congratulates Zhao, “This is a great honor for Dennis and for the entire Math Team. This is the first year we have participated in this competition, and we had more first round qualifiers than any other school in the country. We look forward to cheering Dennis on in the final rounds in January.”

Zhao humbly comments, “It is a great honor to be one of the ten individuals selected for the National Who Wants to Be a Mathematician contest. Certainly, being a part of a challenging and

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fun math and science-intensive program every day, like the Blair Magnet, has helped me greatly. Hopefully, more winners will come from Blair in the future.”



Montgomery Blair Magnet junior and one of only ten to compete in the 2014 National Who Wants to Be a Mathematician contest, Dennis Zhao. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Yiping Zhao)

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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