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**A Record Twenty-One Montgomery Blair High School
Magnet Students Qualify for Second Round of
Who Wants to Be a Mathematician Competition**

Silver Spring, MD—Twenty-one students from the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program qualified for the second round of testing in the *Who Wants to Be a Mathematician* (WWTBAM) competition, which is operated and sponsored by the American Mathematics Society. Last month approximately 1,500 students from roughly 200 schools completed the first round of the competition, which consisted of answering ten questions covering algebra, geometry, the history of mathematics, probability, and trigonometry. Late in the month, the names of students scoring at least eight out of ten were announced as competitors in the next round. Students nationwide must complete the second round of testing by October 20, and results will be available by next month. Twenty-one qualifiers represent the greatest number of students that any high school in the nation can boast. In fact, this number is over ten percent of all students advancing to the second round throughout the country. The school with the next highest number of qualifiers has eleven students.

These Blair Magnet students (with their school grade level) are: Adam Busis (12), Josh Fernandes (10), and Jesse Matthews (10) of Silver Spring; Sambuddha Chattopadhyay (10) of Olney; Raymond Lin (11), Pratik Rathore (10), Anish Senapati (9), Siddharth Taneja (9), Annie Zhao (9), and Dennis Zhao (12) of Gaithersburg; Cynthia Liu (11), Eric Lu (11), Eric Neyman (12), Jyotsna Rao (9), Dilhan Salgado (9), Vijay Upadhyaya (12), Michael Winer (12), Victor Xu (12), and Lawrence Zhao (10) of Rockville; Alex Miao (10) of Potomac; and Noah Singer (9) of Bethesda.

Based on the results of the second round of testing, ten students will be selected to compete at the national WWTBAM competition at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Antonio, Texas on January 12. The top scorer from each of ten geographic regions will advance to this semifinal round. Students in the final round will compete for up to \$5,000 in prize money, along with a matching monetary donation to

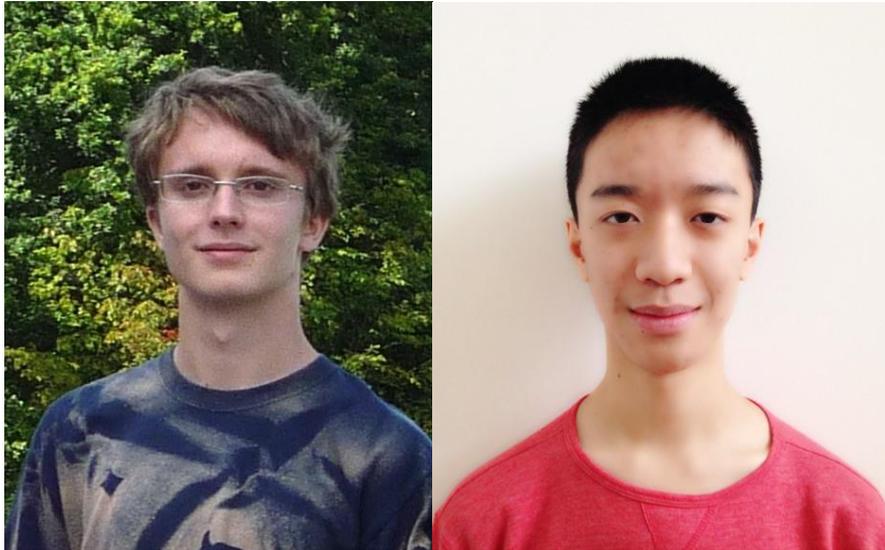
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their school. Last year, Dennis Zhao, an eleventh grader in the Blair Magnet at the time, was selected as the representative from this geographic region and was one of ten to participate in the national 2013 *WWTBM* competition, which was held in Baltimore.

Blair Math Team coach and Blair Magnet mathematics teacher Mr. David Stein comments on Blair's showing, "This is a tremendous result, which demonstrates the high level of mathematics and problem-solving that students at Blair are engaged in."

Victor Xu, Blair Math Team competition co-coordinator and *WWTBAM* second round qualifier, agrees, "The large number of students making it to the second round of the *WWTBAM* contest from the Blair Magnet program speaks to the strength of math education in the program. In particular, the math knowledge many participants were able to gain from the Blair Math Team, sponsored by Mr. Stein, gave magnet students an edge over students from other schools."

Adam Busis, also of the Blair Math Team and *WWTBAM* second round qualifier, expresses his gratitude, "I really enjoy math and am grateful to Mr. Stein for organizing our math team. I am also looking forward to the second round of the *WWTBAM* competition."



(From left) Adam Busis and Victor Xu, Montgomery Blair Magnet Program seniors and two of Blair Math Team's captains, qualified for the second round of the 2014-2015 *Who Wants to Be a Mathematician* Competition, along with 19 of their Blair Magnet classmates. (Photos courtesy of Leslie Hall and Lijun Xiong, respectively.)

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

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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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