



Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students Earn Top Spots in International Physics Bowl Competition

Silver Spring, MD—Montgomery Blair High School placed first among all schools in Division 2 (for second-year or higher physics students) in the 2014 American Association of Physics Teachers Physics Bowl Competition. In addition, Blair placed second among all specialized math/science magnet schools, Region 1, participating in Division 1 competition (for first-year physics students).

Several Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program students also received individual awards in the competition. Michael Winer (11) of North Bethesda and Alexander Bourzutschky (12) of Potomac earned second and fourth place overall, respectively, in Division 2 of the international competition. In Region 1, Bendeguz Offertaler (11) of Rockville and Adam Busis (11) of Silver Spring were the two highest scoring Division 2 students (not including the top ten overall scorers). In addition, Raymond Lin (10) of Gaithersburg was one of the two highest scoring Division 1 students (not including the top ten overall scorers) in this region. Finally, Dennis Zhao (11) of Gaithersburg made the Merit Roll, which included the top twenty scorers who did not place in the top two in their region.

In April more than 4,500 students from over 280 schools across the United States, Canada, China, and Spain took this test, which is run by the American Association of Physics Teachers. The timed, multiple-choice test covered topics and concepts covered in a typical high school physics course. Students competed in either Division 1, for first-year physics students, or Division 2, for second-year or higher physics students. In addition, schools are divided into 14 regions. All students from specialized math/science magnet schools (like Blair) compete in Region 1, regardless of their geographic location. School team scores represent the sum of the top five scores for that school.

Michael Winer expresses his gratitude, "I'd like to thank the Blair Magnet in general and Mr. Schafer in particular for providing

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these opportunities and giving me the knowledge needed to capitalize on them.”

Adam Busis agrees, “Mr. Schafer is a great teacher. Physics is hard but really fun.”



Montgomery Blair Magnet juniors Michael Winer (left) and Adam Busis helped earn the school first place in Division 2 (for second-year or higher physics students) in the 2014 American Association of Physics Teachers Physics Bowl Competition. Winer and Busis were honored with individual awards, as well. (Photos courtesy of Ms. Emily Hofmann and Ms. Leslie Hall)

Last year Michael Winer earned first place in Division 1 competition, and Alexander Bourzutschky scored in the top ten for Division 2 competition. In 2011, then Blair Magnet senior Andrew Das Sarma of Potomac placed first in Division 2 competition. That same year, Bourzutschky and Samuel Zbarsky of Rockville scored in the top ten for Division 1 competition. In 2010, then Blair Magnet freshman Diwakaran Ilangovan of Gaithersburg and Zbarsky were the highest scoring Division 1 students among all math/science magnet schools participating. Also, Das Sarma and then Blair Magnet senior, Anand Oza of North Potomac, had the highest Division 2 scores among these magnet schools. Mr. James Schafer, Blair Magnet physics and mathematics teacher, serves as staff sponsor for the Physics Bowl team.

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

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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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