



MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL MAGNET FOUNDATION INC.



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Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students Earn Honors at the American Regions Mathematics League Contest

Silver Spring, MD—The Montgomery County A team, with all but two students hailing from the Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program, earned fifth place nationally, the county’s best showing in the last nine years, at the 40th Annual American Regions Mathematics League (ARML) Competition.

Problems for this prestigious national competition cover mathematics areas such as algebra, geometry, number theory, combinatorics, and probability. This contest consists of four parts, the team, power, individual, and relay rounds. Individual places are determined by results from the individual round, with tie breakers used among students with tied scores.

Students participate in either the A or B divisions of competition, with Montgomery County sending three A division teams and two B division teams. The Montgomery County C and D teams earned fourth and fifth place, respectively, in B division competition.

Members of the Montgomery County junior team excelled in individual competition. Daniel Zhu of Takoma Park Middle School, and a rising ninth grader at the Blair Magnet, earned sixth place nationally in this level of competition. Jason Lee of Roberto Clemente Middle School placed eighth nationally. Each of these students scored 9 out of 10 on the individual round.

The members of the Montgomery County A team include (For all teams, all students are from the Blair Magnet unless indicated in parentheses, along with 2014-2015 grade level; E=Eastern Middle School, P=Pooleville High School, RM=Richard Montgomery High School, RC=Roberto Clemente Middle School, TP=Takoma Park Middle School, W=Thomas S. Wootton High School, Y=Yang Academy): Justina Yang (co-captain, 12, Y), Dennis Zhao (co-captain,

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12), Adam Busis (12), Sambuddha Chattopadhyay (10), Cynthia Liu (11), Eric Lu (11), Eric Neyman (12), Justin Park (9, P), Pratik Rathore (10), Dilhan Salgado (9), Anish Senapati (9), Mike Winer (12), David Wu (9), Annie Xu (12), and Victor Xu (12).

Montgomery County B team members include: Teddy Corrales (co-captain, 12), Annie Zhao (co-captain, 9), Guang Cui (9), Vijay Dey (9, W), Matthew Feng (10, P), Chris Zihao Li (9, W), Raymond Lin (11), Yu Lu (11, RM), Jyotsna Rao (9), Eshan Tewari (10), Vijay Upadhya (12), Jamie Vinson (10), William Xu (12), Allen Yang (9, W), and Kevin Ying (11, RM).

Members of the Montgomery County C team include: Angela Park (co-captain, 11), Alvin Ya (co-captain, 9, P), Ji Hyuk Bae (11), Xuanxi Du (11, W), Mitchell Fream (9, P), Jane Gerard (12), Soyoun Hong (9), Kevin Jiang (9), Sahil Kochar (9), Kyle Liu (11, W), Alex Miao (10), Yuang “Eric” Shen (9), Noah Singer (9), Siddharth Taneja (9), and Linden Yuan (9).

Montgomery County D team members include: Alice Zhang (captain, 9), Avik Barua (8, TP), Reid Brown (9), Richard Chen (10), Laura Cui (8, TP), Joseph Dey (8, RC), Daniel Kim (9, W), Sunny Ouyang (11, RM), Justin Shen (12), Joy Shi (7, E), Ambrose Yang (8, TP), Julia Yang (8, Y), Enya Wang (9), Katherine Wu (9), and Audrey Yuan (9, W).

The members of the Montgomery County Junior team include: Steven Qu (captain, 8, TP), Anson Bems (8, TP), Vincent Bian (8, RC), Ryan Choo (8, TP), Olivia Fan (8, TP), Bryan Foo (8, RC), Haydn Gwyn (8, TP), Brian Kee (8, RC), Jason Lee (8, RC), Daniel Li (8, RC), Luke Lu (8, TP), Kevin Qian (8, TP), Timothy Qian (6, TP), Jacob Stavrianos (8, TP), and Daniel Zhu (8, TP).

Ms. Zenia Yang, math teacher at Northwest High School, coached and selected the students for the five county-wide teams based on rigorous weekly evening practices and testing during the spring, with help from Dr. Brian Hunt of the University of Maryland College Park and experience she gained while assisting Mr. Eric Walstein, long-time Montgomery County ARML coach and retired Blair Magnet teacher. Mr. Walstein attended the 40<sup>th</sup> ARML celebrations, although he retired from coaching two years ago. Ms. Yang, Blair Magnet math teacher Mr. Jeremy Schwartz, and parent chaperones accompanied this year’s teams to the competition. The teams’ trip was supported by a grant from the Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation.

Montgomery County A team co-captain Dennis Zhao humbly offers his gratitude, “It was a great honor to be part of the fifth place team and be recognized among many talented individuals at ARML. As many members of the A team are classmates in the Blair Magnet, we have the advantage of knowing each other’s strengths and weakness by working together in a math-

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intensive environment every day, in addition to improving our problem solving skills. This certainly aids us in a competition, where many other teams only fully assemble a couple of days before the competition. I am grateful to Ms. Yang for her dedication and also to the Blair Magnet Foundation for helping to fund the trip, making it possible for us to compete in the first place. While this was my last ARML, I am glad to see all the young talent, knowing that Montgomery ARML is in such good hands and can potentially surpass this year's result very soon."

Ms. Yang would like to express her gratitude to Dr. Brian Hunt, Professor, Department of Mathematics, University of Maryland College Park; Ms. Sarah Manchester, mathematics teacher, Takoma Park Middle School; Mr. David Stein, mathematics teacher, Blair Magnet, and Montgomery County high school math competition coordinator; Ms. Alyssa Walstein, mathematics teacher, Westland Middle School, and Montgomery County middle school math competition coordinator; Mr. Eric Walstein, retired 38-year ARML coach; Mrs. Eileen Adelman, Ms. Donna Franklin, and Building Service staff from Montgomery Blair High School; Ms. Helen Bai, Ms. Leslie Hall, and many other ARML parents; ARML staff; and the Montgomery Blair Magnet Foundation.



The Montgomery County A team earned fifth place nationally at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual American Regions Mathematics League competition. Each member was awarded an engraved plaque. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Jeff Zhu)

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Members of all five Montgomery County ARML teams pose with retired 38-year ARML coach, Mr. Eric Walstein.  
(Photo courtesy of Ms. Helen Bai)

## **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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