



Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Foundation Inc.



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CONTACT: Sherrie Emoto, board@mbhsmagnet.org

Address:

MBHS Magnet
Foundation Inc.
P.O. Box 5329
Takoma Park,
MD 20913

Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students Place at Harvard-MIT Mathematics Tournament

Silver Spring, MD—Two teams of Montgomery Blair High School Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program students participated in the Harvard-MIT Mathematics Tournament, which was held at MIT on February 12, 2011. Over 900 high school students from the United States and abroad, including 100 teams, attended this annual math tournament.

The Blair A team members were Charles Argue and Jason Hyun of Silver Spring, Brendan Berger and Sam Zbarsky of Rockville, Andrew Das Sarma of Potomac, Vijay Ilangovan of Gaithersburg, Charlie Pasternak of Bethesda, and Thomas Zhang of Sandy Spring. William Cai of Potomac, Megan Chao, Thomas McHale, and Myungjee Noh of Rockville, Andrew Gilbert and Andrew Hu of Silver Spring, Bob Ma of Gaithersburg, and Robert Ullman of Bethesda competed on the Blair B team.

In the Individual Tests, Samuel Zbarsky scored 1st on calculus/combinatorics, Brendan Berger scored 6th on geometry/calculus, Jason Hyun scored 11th on algebra/calculus, Thomas Zhang scored 14th on geometry/combinatorics, and Charles Argue scored 21st on geometry/combinatorics. Additionally, Zbarsky received an award for having the 2nd-best performance on any individual test, after normalizing for differences between the difficulty of the individual tests. For team competition, the Blair A team took 9th place in the A Team Round (a collaborative event involving proof-style problems), and the Blair B team earned 24th place in the corresponding B Team Round. In addition, the Blair A team won 7th place in the Guts Round (a team relay with short-answer problems), earning this team 6th place overall (combination of Individual Tests, A Team and Guts Round scores).

Blair Magnet 2010 grad and current MIT student Jacob Hurwitz represented Blair in the 2009 and 2010 Harvard-MIT Mathematics Tournament, earning individual and team awards. This year Hurwitz helped run the student-operated competition. Regarding Blair's

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advancing from 9th place overall in 2009 (the first year Blair participated), to 7th in 2010, and 6th this year, Hurwitz comments, “I’m proud to see that the Blair team has been doing better and better every year.”

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 a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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