

**For Release Immediately: February 28, 2017**  
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## **STUDENT “MATHLETES” WIN AT LOCAL MATH CONTEST**

A team of middle school Mathletes® from Daniel Wright Junior High School in Lincolnshire won the local 2017 MATHCOUNTS Lake County Chapter Competition held on February 18<sup>th</sup> at the College of Lake County in Grayslake. More than 140 students from across Lake and McHenry counties participated in the competition this year.

MATHCOUNTS is a combination math coaching and competition program designed to address the problem of declining math skills among U.S. students. Teachers and students have been preparing for the Chapter Competition since the fall. The 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were tested on such topics as probability, statistics, linear algebra and polynomials.

The winning Mathlete® Teams and Individuals received special awards in recognition of their achievement and will now advance to the State Competition, to be held in Lisle, Illinois on March 4, 2017. The top four Individuals at the State Competition will represent the State of Illinois at the 2017 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition to be held May 14-15, 2017 in Orlando, FL.

Members of the winning Daniel Wright Junior High School Team are Anay Agarwal, Andrew Liu, Sai Merneedi, and Praneet Rathi. The second place Team of Howard Dai, Joseph Eisenburg, Yaejoon Hyoung, and Eddie Kim are from Maple School in Northbrook. Two additional Teams scored enough points to advance to State as “Wildcard” Teams. Members of the third place “Wildcard” Team are Devanshi Chakrabarti, Archan Das, Zachary George, and Breanna Yang from Barrington Middle School-Prairie Campus in Barrington. Members of the fourth place “Wildcard” Team are Jack Chen, James Kim, Sean Li, and James Xie from Twin Groves Middle School in Buffalo Grove.

The top two scoring Individuals were Howard Dai from Maple School in Northbrook and Ram Potham from Aptakisic Junior High School in Buffalo Grove, respectively. Howard will advance to State as a member of his school’s team which also placed. Each Chapter is allowed to send the top 2 scoring Individuals to State that are not on a Team advancing to State. Ram Potham from Aptakisic Junior High School and Jimmy Zhang from Barrington Middle School-Prairie Campus will advance to State to compete and represent the Lake County Chapter in the Individuals category.

Following the written portion of the competition, the 16 highest scoring competitors participated in a fast-paced, timed verbal Countdown Round. Trophies were awarded to the top 4 finishers. Ram Potham from Aptakisic won first place and Billy Bratton from Aptakisic placed second, Richard Bi from Woodlawn Middle School in Long Grove placed third and Jimmy Zhang from Barrington Middle School-Prairie Campus placed fourth.

The local program is sponsored by the College of Lake County and the Lake Michigan Post of the Society of American Military Engineers. Leadership of the local MATHCOUNTS program is provided by members of the Lake County Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers.

The National Sponsors of MATHCOUNTS are Raytheon Company, Northrop Grumman Foundation, U.S. Department of Defense, National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), CNA Foundation, ConocoPhillips, Texas Instruments Incorporated, 3M Foundation, Art of Problem Solving, and NextThought.