

For Release Immediately: February 25, 2025

Contact: Patrick Bleck at (847) 295-5200

STUDENT "MATHLETES" WIN AT LOCAL MATH CONTEST

A team of middle school Mathletes® from Daniel Wright Junior High School in Lincolnshire won the local 2025 MATHCOUNTS Lake County Chapter Competition held on February 15th at the College of Lake County in Grayslake. 73 students from across Lake and McHenry counties participated in the Chapter 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 6th, 7th & 8th 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 Oswego, Illinois on March 8, 2025. The top four Individuals at the State Competition will represent the State of Illinois at the RTX 2025 MATHCOUNTS National Competition to be held May 11-12, 2025 in Washington, DC.

Members of the winning Daniel Wright Team are Eric Xiong, Andy Chang, Alex Zhou and James Cheng. Five additional Teams scored enough points to advance to State as "Wildcard" Teams. Members of the "Wildcard #1" Team are Nitin Chenna, Dylan Shen, Aryan Prashar and Kikeon Kim from Hawthorn Middle School South in Vernon Hills. Members of the "Wildcard #2" Team are Bowen Li, Evgeniya Goryainova, Allen Zhou and Samuel He from Aptakisic Junior High School in Buffalo Grove. Members of the "Wildcard #3" Team are Gavin Deng, Bryan Rizun, Aarit Perswal and Maxo Potkonjak from Woodlawn Middle School in Long Grove. Members of the "Wildcard #4" Team are Roy Fang, Jotin Samayamantri, Mao Mao and Lily Fan from Twin Groves Middle School in Buffalo Grove. Members of the "Wildcard #5" Team are Jed Setyo, Ruhi Shinde, Emily Cheng and Octavian Appleby from Barrington Middle School Prairie in Barrington.

Andy Chang and Eric Xiong both from Daniel Wright Junior High tied for first place and were the top two highest scoring Individuals. Andy and Eric will advance to State as members of the Daniel Wright team. Each Chapter is allowed to send the top 4 scoring Individuals to State that are not on a Team advancing to State. Claire Yu from Daniel Wright Junior High School, Neil Chatterjee from Twin Groves, Katie Wang from Daniel Wright and Kaylie Liu from Aptakisic Junior High 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. Alex Zhou from Daniel Wright won first place and Neil Chatterjee from Twin Groves placed second, Dylan Shen from Hawthorn South placed third and Eric Xiong from Daniel Wright 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.

2024-2025 MATHCOUNTS Sponsors include: RTX, U.S. Department of Defense STEM, Northrop Grumman Foundation, National Society of Professional Engineers, 3Mgives, Texas Instruments Incorporated, Art of Problem Solving, National Society of Professional Engineers, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and CNA Insurance.