

**Team Massachusetts Wins National MATHCOUNTS<sup>®</sup> Math Competition**  
*Four Middle School Students from Across the State Earned National Recognition*

**May, 2019** - In a grueling two-day MATHCOUNTS Competition on May 12-13 in Orlando, Florida, four middle school students from schools throughout Massachusetts swept the competition, earning first place in the Team competition, as well as first and second in the individual competition. The state team from Florida placed second, and California placed third.

The four Massachusetts students are **Max Xu** from Stony Brook Middle School in Westford, **Daniel Mai** from RJ Grey Jr High School in Acton, **Jeff Lin** from Jonas Clarke Middle School in Lexington and **Kaylee Ji** from the Doherty Middle School in Andover. They were led by Coach **Josh Frost** from the Jonas Clarke Middle School in Lexington.

Massachusetts Mathletes were among 224 competitors from all 50 states, plus U.S. territories and schools that serve the U.S. State and Defense departments, who traveled to Orlando after earning a spot in the national competition. More than 90,000 students nationwide participated in their local and state competitions that led to the national competition.

MSPE Director and State MATHCOUNTS Coordinator, John Hayden, PE, explained, "This vital program empowers students to solve problems, work in teams, and positively contribute to our society and world. I am very proud of the 900+ Massachusetts students who participated this year, and the top four who represented us and won top honors at National competition. Without the dedicated support of sponsors such as The Massachusetts Society of Professional Engineers, as well as many volunteers and sponsors that this grass-roots program requires, this program could not happen."

**Key Competition Details**

Day 1 was the Written Competition, in which the team participated in the first 2 rounds, including the Sprint Round, a 30-question test that they each had 40 minutes to complete; and the Target Round, in which the students took four, two-question tests and had just 6 minutes to complete each pair of questions. They completed these two rounds as individuals. In the final round of the day, the four students worked as a team to complete a 10-question team test in 20 minutes.

Following the first day of competition, all 224 competitors had the opportunity to tour the NASA Facilities at the Kennedy Space Center.

On Day 2, the results of the Written Competition were announced, with Team Massachusetts earning the Team title for the 5th time in the 36-year history of the competition. They were followed by the teams from Florida and California. All four students from Team Massachusetts made the top 25 percent of the competitors, with Kaylee Ji placing 35th, Max Xu placing 22nd, Daniel Mai placing 2nd and Jeff Lin placing 1st in the Written Competition. This earned Jeff and Daniel a spot in the Final Round of the Competition, the Countdown Round.

Jeff and Daniel were grouped with the other 10 top Written Competition students for an exciting head to head matchup to determine the individual Champion. Jeff progressed to the Quarter Final Round. In a nail-biting tie-breaker, Daniel succeeded in winning the Individual Championship. This is the fourth time Team Massachusetts has had an Individual Champion.

### **The Winning Answer**

Daniel Mai won the final round of the Countdown Round by answering the question: "What is the quotient of 5040 divided by the product of its unique prime factors?" He provided the correct answer, 24, in just 22.53 seconds. As National Champion, Daniel will receive the \$20,000 Donald G. Weinert College Scholarship, plus a trip to U.S. Space Camp.

### **MASSACHUSETTS' WINNING HISTORY**

Massachusetts has a history of success at National MATHCOUNTS competitions, consistently placing in the Top 10 out of 56 teams. The Massachusetts Team won the National Competition in 1997, 1999, 2012, 2013 and 2019. Massachusetts Individuals have won the Individual Title in 1991, 1998, 2013 and in 2019, and look forward to continuing the tradition.

### **ABOUT MATHCOUNTS:**

MATHCOUNTS® is a national math enrichment program and competition series focused on engaging the critical thinking and problem-solving skills of middle school students in grades 6-8.

For more than 30 years, the Massachusetts MATHCOUNTS program has provided math enrichment and competition opportunities for middle school students across the state. Run solely by adult volunteers and educators, Massachusetts MATHCOUNTS provides students with a ***valuable foundation for success in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers.***

Through the grass-roots efforts of volunteers and sponsor support, the competition program has grown to annually serve more than 900 students from 120 schools.

The three key MATHCOUNTS programs – National Math Club; The Math Video Challenge, and The Competition Series – are each designed to engage middle school students with opportunities to use math, build confidence and enhance their appreciation for math.

### **Volunteers & Sponsors Make MA MATHCOUNTS Possible**

The program's growth requires more volunteers and sponsors every year to keep up with the demand. John Hayden, PE, marks 2019 as his 22nd year of volunteer-support for MA MATHCOUNTS, and his 8th year as the State MATHCOUNTS Coordinator, overseeing 7 Chapter Coordinators and 111 School Coaches who support nearly 1,000 middle school students. John, a Senior Transportation Engineer with Stantec, also serves on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE.org).

### **HOW TO SUPPORT MASSACHUSETTS MATHCOUNTS:**

#### **ENCOURAGE YOUR LOCAL MIDDLE SCHOOL TO PARTICIPATE**

Contact your local middle school and ask if they participate in the program. If they do, congratulate them and offer any assistance you are comfortable with. If they do not participate, urge them to. They, and you, can find out more at the MATHCOUNTS website, [www.mathcounts.org](http://www.mathcounts.org) or by contacting the State Coordinator, John J. Hayden, P.E. at [john.hayden2@stantec.com](mailto:john.hayden2@stantec.com)

### **VOLUNTEER**

In late fall of each year, the Competition Schedule here in Massachusetts is published. At each of the Chapter and the State Competitions, there are a number of opportunities to help out. These range from proctoring the test to scoring. No experience is necessary and training on any position takes only minutes on the day of the event. Time commitments range from 3 to 5 hours on the day of the Competition.

# MASSACHUSETTS MATHCOUNTS®

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE IN MATH

Anyone interested in helping can contact the Chapter Coordinators directly.

There are also opportunities to volunteer as a Chapter Coordinator and run one of the seven Chapters around the State. Contact State Coordinator, John J. Hayden, P.E. at [john.hayden2@stantec.com](mailto:john.hayden2@stantec.com) for details.

## **DONATE**

MATHCOUNTS is funded in Massachusetts by organizations such as the Massachusetts Society of Professional Engineers and other professional organizations, local companies and individuals. The MATHCOUNTS Foundation, a National Organization, supplies about 1/3 of the operating costs. Donations of any size can help to fund and expand the program. Donation checks may be made out to “The MATHCOUNTS Foundation” and mailed to State Coordinator John J. Hayden, P.E., 4 Davis Road, Lexington, MA 02421. The MATHCOUNTS Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization, and all donations are tax deductible.

For additional program information, visit the MATHCOUNTS website, [www.mathcounts.org](http://www.mathcounts.org). Learn more about Massachusetts MATHCOUNTS Sponsor and Volunteer opportunities at [www.mspe.com](http://www.mspe.com), or contact MSPE Director and MATHCOUNTS State Coordinator John J. Hayden, P.E. at [john.hayden2@stantec.com](mailto:john.hayden2@stantec.com)