

## Team Massachusetts Earns Third Place Finish at 2023 National MATHCOUNTS® Math Competition

**May 2023 – Team Massachusetts placed 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 56 teams** at the National MATHCOUNTS Competition from May 13-15 in Orlando, Florida – adding to a proud history of Top 10 national level finishes for MA. Each student “mathlete” also **placed individually in the top 25% of the 224 best mathletes from across the U.S.** who advanced to nationals after 90,000 students competed in their local and state contests.

MATHCOUNTS is the premier National Math competition for U.S. middle school students in grades 6-8. The series combines in-person individual and team experiences with written and oral tests.

The four students who represented Team Massachusetts are Nikhil Byrapuram (grade 8) from The Pike School in Andover; Christopher Cheng and Adam Ge (both grade 8); and Selena Ge (grade 7) from the Jonas Clarke Middle School in Lexington.

The students were accompanied by Coach Josh Frost from Jonas Clarke Middle School in Lexington and State MATHCOUNTS Coordinator John J. Hayden, PE of Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

### Pre-competition Logistics

Following a long-delayed flight from Boston, the team arrived in Florida late Thursday evening. After a brief rest, they were up and practicing on Friday. Saturday began with more drills and ended with a meeting between competition staff and the 224 students and 56 coaches, before an early lights-out.

### Key Competition Details

The competition began Sunday morning with the intense written portion, comprised of 3 rounds. The **Sprint Round** is a 30-question test that students complete individually in 40 minutes with no calculators. The **Target Round** is 4 pairs of questions, with 6 minutes to solve each pair, allowing calculators. In the **Team round**, each four-student team reassembles to collaboratively solve 10 questions in 20 minutes.

Following the first day of competition, all competitors enjoyed the opportunity to see *Guardians of the Galaxy 3* in Disney Springs. Team Massachusetts ended their busy day with a relaxing game of mini golf.

On Monday morning, it was announced that **Team Massachusetts won third place**, behind first place Texas and second place Florida. All four Massachusetts students placed among the top 25% of contestants in the written competition. Nikhil Byrapuram placed 39<sup>th</sup>; and Christopher Cheng placed 24<sup>th</sup>. Siblings Adam and Selena Ge placed among the top 12 finishers, so they advanced to compete in exciting head-to-head **Countdown Rounds** to determine individual champions.

In the first Countdown segment, Adam and Selena faced off, and Selena won. The custom at the end of each round is for competitors to shake hands and congratulate each other; however, Selena received a congratulatory hug from her brother. Adam finished in a four-way tie for ninth place, and Selena advanced to the **Quarter Final Round**, where she tied for fifth place in a four-way tie. Adam and Selena also represented Massachusetts last year at the National Competition.

This outstanding showing for Massachusetts Mathletes was the culmination of a year of hard work for all 829 students, representing 98 schools, their coaches and volunteers who make the program a reality.

## **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 800 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 2023 as his 26th year of volunteer-support for MA MATHCOUNTS, and his 12th year as the State MATHCOUNTS Coordinator, overseeing 7 Chapter Coordinators and 111 School Coaches who support more than 800 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.com).

## **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 learn about the program by visiting the MATHCOUNTS website, [www.mathcounts.org](http://www.mathcounts.org) or the MATHCOUNTS section of [mspe.com](http://mspe.com), 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 Massachusetts Competition Schedule 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. Anyone interested in helping can contact State Coordinator John Hayden or the Chapter Coordinators directly.

There are also opportunities to volunteer as a Chapter Coordinator and run one of 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 written to "The MATHCOUNTS Foundation" and mailed to State Coordinator John J. Hayden, P.E. See details at [mspe.com](http://mspe.com). 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)