

Team Massachusetts Earned Second Place out of 56 Teams at the 2024 National MATHCOUNTS[®] Math Competition

All 4 Students Scored in Top 25% as Individuals; One Placed Second Overall out of 224 Mathletes

May 2024 – Team Massachusetts placed second out of 56 teams at the National MATHCOUNTS Competition held from May 11-13 in Washington, D.C., adding to a proud history of Top 10 national-level finishes for Massachusetts. All four students who represented Mass also placed individually in the top 25% of the 224 top mathletes from across the U.S. who advanced to the national event after more than 90,000 students competed in local and state contests. Team Texas placed first, and California placed third.

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.

Team Massachusetts included **Rajarshi Mandal** (Grade 8) from Diamond Middle School in Lexington; and **Danyang Xu** (Grade 8), **Selena Ge** (Grade 8), and **Brandon Ni** (Grade 6) from Clarke Middle School in Lexington.

The team was accompanied by **Coach Josh Frost** of Jonas Clarke Middle School in Lexington and MSPE Director **John J. Hayden, PE**, State MATHCOUNTS Coordinator and Senior Transportation Engineer at Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

Key Competition Details

On Sunday, the written portion of the competition included 3 intense rounds: The **Sprint Round**, a 30-question test that students complete individually in 40 minutes with no calculators; The **Target Round**, with 4 pairs of questions and only 6 minutes to solve each pair with calculators; and the **Team Round**, that allows each four-person team to collaborate and solve 10 questions in 20 minutes.

Following the first grueling day of competition, Team Massachusetts enjoyed a well-deserved afternoon break and visited the National Zoo.

On Monday it was announced that **Team Massachusetts won second place** in the written competition, after first place Texas. Out of 224 competitors, Rajarshi Mandal placed 45th, Brandon Ni placed 16th, Danyang Xu placed 13th, and Selena Ge placed second among the top 12 finishers, so she advanced to compete in exciting head-to-head **Countdown Round** to determine the individual champion. She persevered through the Quarterfinal and Semifinal rounds, advancing to the Championship Round of the last two Mathletes standing. Selena earned Second Place National Individual Champion, bested only by Ben Jiang from Florida.

Following the competition, Team Massachusetts enjoyed the opportunity to visit several key Washington D.C. memorials and monuments.

This was Selena Ge's final year as a MATHCOUNTS Mathlete; she advanced to the National Competition from 2022 through 2024 and will transition from middle to high school this fall. In 40 years of National MATHCOUNTS Competitions, four of the National Individual Champions were Massachusetts students.

The outstanding showing for Massachusetts Mathletes was the culmination of a year of hard work for 794 students from 121 schools across the state, as well as all the coaches and volunteers who strive to make the program a reality.

ABOUT MATHCOUNTS:

For 40 years, the Massachusetts MATHCOUNTS program has provided math enrichment and competition opportunities for middle school students across the state. Run solely by 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 1,000 students from 120 schools.

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

Volunteers and 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 2024 as his 29th year of volunteer support for MA MATHCOUNTS, and his 17th year as the State MATHCOUNTS Coordinator, overseeing 7 Chapter Coordinators and 120 School Coaches who support approximately 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 or the MATHCOUNTS section of mspe.com, or by contacting the State Coordinator, John J. Hayden, P.E. at 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.

HOST THE 2025 STATE MATHCOUNTS COMPETITION

Organizers are seeking a location for next year's State Competition on March 1, 2025. Firms, organizations, schools or universities throughout Massachusetts with space to host 300-350 people are encouraged to consider this unique opportunity to support Massachusetts Mathletes in 2025, and to demonstrate their passion and support for math and STEM-related careers. Contact State Coordinator John J. Hayden, P.E. at john.hayden2@stantec.com for details.

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

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 one third 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. 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. Learn more about Massachusetts MATHCOUNTS Sponsor and Volunteer opportunities at www.mspe.com, or contact MSPE Director and MATHCOUNTS State Coordinator John J. Hayden, P.E. at john.hayden2@stantec.com