

From the community: Marie Murphy Science Olympiad Team Places 8th in Nation



Posted by harriss4, Community Contributor

By **Community Contributor harriss4**

JUNE 9, 2017, 1:13 PM

At the end of April, students from Marie Murphy School participated in the State Science Olympiad competition and came home with a second place finish, which secured their place at the National Competition. On May 20th, the team enjoyed an action packed day competing in the National Championship at [Wright State University](#) in Dayton, Ohio. One of the nation's most prestigious science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) competitions, Science Olympiad brings together 120 winning middle school and high school teams. Students participate in rigorous hands-on and lab events led by experts from government agencies, top universities, industry and Science Olympiad state chapters covering topics in robotics, physics, epidemiology, astronomy, chemistry, meteorology, coding and engineering.

Marie Murphy has had long-standing success in the Science Olympiad competition. It has competed at the national level for many years. The team has placed in the top 10 in the nation. They have placed anywhere from 2nd to 10th in the nation. Marie Murphy finished with an overall 8th place finish. Eric Liu and Dodge Adams walked away with a

Plan your retirement wisely
Special offer: 1 FREE month!

TRY NOW >

2nd place medal in the Hovercraft event, in which they constructed a self-propelled air-levitated vehicle, moved the vehicle down a track and were tested on their knowledge of classic mechanics and related topics. Other medal winners include: 3rd Place in Crimebusters - Isabelle Hester and Chelsea Lu; 3rd Place in Rocks and Minerals - Isabelle Hester and Mia Moline; 3rd Place in Towers - Violet Cue and Ian Quan; 5th Place in Wright Stuff - Zijun Deng & Brian Shen and 6th Place in Optics - Eric Liu & Brian Shen.

The tradition and success of the program is maintained by Marie Murphy veteran teachers and coaches Peter Ogden, Jim Gravagna, Darren Persino and Shannon Wright who set high expectations and rigor to their program. Competing in the National Championship is the underlying goal each year, but the fundamental benefits of science education and teamwork are inevitable take aways for the students. Eighth grader, and national medalist Chelsea Lu reflected, "Nationals was a fun and memorable experience, but bittersweet because it was our last competition together as a team, and I will miss it so much."

Marie Murphy School is a 6-8 grade school and is part of Avoca School District 37 which serves portions of Chicago's North Shore suburban communities of Wilmette, Winnetka, Glenview and Northfield and is part of New Trier Township.

This item was posted by a community contributor. To read more about community contributors, [click here](#).

Copyright © 2017, Chicago Tribune

This article is related to: [Wright State University](#)

Plan your retirement wisely
Special offer: 1 FREE month!

TRY NOW ›