

St. Andrew's Math Team Shines at State Tournament

Liz Torrey, Apr 13 2016

On Tuesday, April 5, the St. Andrew's Math League traveled to Dover, DE to compete in the [Delaware Math League](#) State Finals. Four St. Andrew's math teams were invited to the tournament; SAS is one of only two schools in the history of the state tournament to have earned this distinction.

"Interest in the Math Team was huge this year," said Head Coach Eric Finch. "Our team members participate in all of St. Andrew's varsity sports, and so many different activities—you don't really see that in other school's math teams. So it actually becomes a curse this one day a year. Our students have to choose between playing in a lacrosse game, for example, or going to the state tournament with the Math Team."

This year's state tournament, hosted by the Delaware Council of Teachers of Mathematics, involved 38 teams (less than 10% of the total number of teams that competed in this year's regular-season Math League meets), representing high schools all over the state. Students compete individually and on teams of five, with ninth graders competing in one bracket, and tenth through twelfth graders competing in another.

"In St. Andrew's math classrooms, we're not just finding the right answer—we're pursuing the practice of math from a different perspective," Finch said. "I think students enjoy being a part of the Math Team because league meets give them a chance to practice that kind of work within the larger math community."

St. Andrew's made a strong showing at the tournament, with one 10th-12th grade team, comprised of Ben Chen '17, Bill Hu '16, Tiger Luo '17, John Paris '17, and Russell Xu '17, placing second in the state, and one ninth grade team, comprised of Enok Choe '19, Kayla Jo '19, Charlotte Oxnam '19, Robin Zhang '19, and Sam Zhang '19, placing fourth out of 19 teams competing in that bracket.

In the individual competition, Bill Hu '16 and Tiger Luo '17 were two of the eight students (out of more than 250 competing) who received perfect scores for their work. Tiger went on to win the sudden-death playoff, placing first in the state in the individual competition. "Bill raised his hand first," Finch explained. "He had the right answer, but expressed it slightly incorrectly. But he handled it beautifully and was really happy that Tiger won."

"Bill's done so much hard work this year to bring the team together, and has just shown enthusiasm across the board," Finch said. "It's thanks to the leadership of students like Bill that our ranks have grown as much as they have in recent years."