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Overbrook students win Father Ryan math contest for the 9th time

Overbrook math students again let their lights shine, winning the recent Father Ryan math contest for the ninth time since 1997. Overbrook's sixth-graders also placed first in a national MathFax Contest among Catholic schools in its division.

Overbrook math students, under the guidance of junior high math teacher Mary Prue Alley, have dominated the Father Ryan Math Contest since the 1990s. Nine times, including this year, the team has won first place in the contest which tests students in different areas of math. In addition to the team's nine first place wins, they have also placed second place twice – in 1998 and 1999.

At the Father Ryan Math Contest, in specific categories, sixth-grader Rachel Panther won second place in fundamentals and word problems. In the seventh grade, Douglas Arney won first place in fundamentals and second place in word problems while Jack Sheridan won third place in fundamentals and first in word problems. In the eighth grade, Jack Quigley won first in fundamentals, Courtney Panther won second in Algebra I word problems, and Timothy Bulso won third in Algebra I fundamentals and word problems.

For the MathFax contest, students in grades 3 – 8 participate every year. The United States is divided into divisions and four contests are given from November to March. The tests consist of very hard, non-routine problems that involve higher order thinking skills in order to solve, said Mrs. Alley.

Individual students also performed well in the Math Fax contest. Overbrook's Algebra I students and the third-grade, fourth-grade and seventh-grade math students won second place in the MathFax Contest while pre-Algebra students paced fourth in the contest and fifth-graders placed seventh in the nation among Catholic schools in its division.

In addition to the class wide placements, the following students placed very well individually: third-grader Gustavo Morrice placed fourth out of 190 students; fourth-grader Gray Adelman placed second out of 329 students; fifth-grader Anthony Swenson placed 10th out of 430 students; sixth-grader Katie McDow placed second out of 285 students, while her classmates placed in the following order: Kristin Deneen placed fourth, Mary Kate Hannon placed fifth, Rachel Panther placed sixth, Christina Quigley placed ninth and Tess Deegan placed 10th; in the seventh-grade out of 171 students, Jack Sheridan placed second, Griffin Connolly placed sixth, Velvet Vaughn placed seventh, Genny Parkes placed ninth and Douglas Arney placed 10th; eighth-grader Caitlyn Lovell placed 16th out of 182 students; and eighth-graders Timothy Bulso placed first out of 165 students, Jack Quigley placed fourth and Courtney Panther placed sixth.

Overbrook is owned and operated by The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation. Overbrook is a co-educational Catholic school for pre-k through eighth grade students where children grow in grace and knowledge. One hundred percent of the eighth-graders enrolled in Algebra I last year at Overbrook tested out of entry level math in high school as freshmen and are now taking higher level math. In addition, four members of the Overbrook Class of 2004 have been recognized this fall as National Merit Scholarship Program semifinalists and commended students.