



THE BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL
PRESS RELEASE

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Charles Debelak Coaches Ohio's MathCounts Team

Lakewood resident, **Charles Debelak**, led Birchwood School's math team to 1st place at the prestigious MathCounts State Competition on March 12th in Columbus. This accomplishment led to **Mr. Debelak** being appointed the coach for Ohio's four-student math team that will represent Ohio at the Mathcounts National Competition in Washington, D.C. on May 6-8.

The team includes Birchwood student **Clive C** who placed first in Ohio. "**Mr. Debelak** believes each child should be able to learn at their own pace," **Chan** reports. "He has allowed me to advance as rapidly as I want to, and has helped me lay out a plan to finish Calculus AB before high school."

"To place as the number one team in Ohio is a great achievement!" **Debelak** said enthusiastically, "but these four students aspire to perform well on the national level, too; they understand how much work that will require."

Currently in its 28th year, Mathcounts is one of the country's largest and most successful educational partnerships, involving volunteers, educators, industry sponsors, and students. President Barack Obama and former Presidents George W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Ronald W. Reagan have all recognized Mathcounts in White House ceremonies.

Twenty-seven years ago **Charles** and **Helene Debelak** founded Birchwood School, with a view to provide an outstanding academic education. Coupled with high academic standards was the desire to help build the work habits in students that lead to achievement and personal success. Their vision has come to life over the years and their success is evident as one walks the halls of Birchwood School. Trophy cases overflow with national, state, and local recognition of student achievement, and quotes that have inspired individual students decorate the walls. One proclaims, "When the world says, 'Give up,' Hope whispers, 'Try it one more time.'"

On Friday, May 6th, **Debelak, Clive C** and his teammates, **Peter T, Shivam S,** and **Kartick D,** will travel to the nations capital to compete for the national title. They will match their skills against other talented middle school mathematicians representing the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and schools from the Department of Defense and the State Department. Best of luck, mathletes, and congratulations, **Mr. Charles Debelak,** on producing a winning team!



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The Birchwood School is a private, coeducational school in Cleveland, Ohio. Founded in 1984, Birchwood serves students in kindergarten through grade 8. Birchwood's mission is to provide an educational setting where challenging academics build solid work habits, an achievement culture nurtures healthy attitudes, and a caring environment forges social responsibility.

www.birchwoodschool.org