

Buchholz High wins national math championship

Alachua County is once again home to the national math champs.

Buchholz High School has won its 11th national mathematics title in twelve years after defeating arch nemesis American Heritage School at the 2018 Mu Alpha Theta competition in Colorado Springs. The win avenges Buchholz' losses to the South Florida private school in the 2017 national competition and the 2018 state competition.



Buchholz earned a total of 7293 points for its performance in a wide range of individual and group events, ultimately beating American Heritage by 134 points to win the title.

“We got very far behind American Heritage on the first day and a half, then came storming back,” said Buchholz math teacher and team coach Will Frazer. “Our kids worked very hard this summer to prepare.”

The 44-member Buchholz team brought home a record 205 individual and group trophies at the competition, including 24 first-place awards. They took first place in two of the three major divisions—Alpha, which is pre-calculus, and Theta, which covers Algebra 2 and geometry--and came in a close second in the Mu, or calculus, division.

Mu Alpha Theta is the largest math honors society in the world, with more than 110,000 student members from 2400 schools across the U.S. and twenty foreign countries. The Buchholz students were up against 572 of the top high school math students in the nation representing nearly fifty schools.

Frazer says his team is already looking forward to the 2019 competition in Las Vegas, Nevada. Just five of the team members at the competition were seniors, including Jenny Baik, Sidhika Balachandar, Caroline Chu, Steve Li, and Daniel Samraj. Each of them brought home awards from the competition.

“We are fortunate that we won’t be graduating too many seniors,” said Frazer. “We have a large group of incoming 9th graders, so the future looks very bright.”

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