

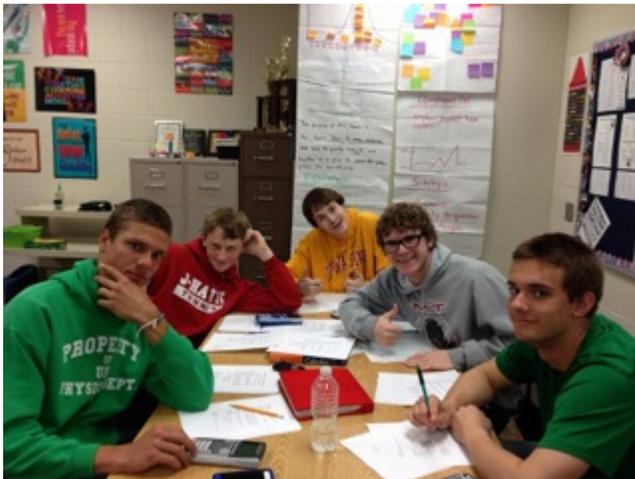


For Immediate Release

Urbandale High School Students Receive First Place And National Honors

A team of five Urbandale High School students compete in the challenging Purple Comet! Math Meet and receive a first-place finish and a national honorable mention

URBANDALE, Iowa – May 21, 2013 – What do 44 countries, over 2,900 middle and high school teams, and a group of [Urbandale High School](#) students all have in common? They all recently competed in the challenging and prestigious [Purple Comet! Math Meet](#), an annual international online mathematics competition for middle and high school students, and honed their skills in team collaboration, problem solving, and critical thinking. On April 18, 2013, Urbandale High School students Scott Wilson, Brian Carrier, Michael Clinkscales, Sam Johnson, and Quinn Lafrentz competed on team Toon Squad and received a first-place finish out of five similar sized schools in Iowa as well as a national honorable mention.



1. Purple Comet! Math Meet Team Members Scott Wilson, Brian Carrier, Michael Clinkscales, Sam Johnson, and Quinn Lafrentz

Since 2003, the Purple Comet! Math Meet has held annual online competitions where middle and high schools students from around the world form teams consisting of one to six students. Teams compete by submitting solutions for challenging mathematic problems. There is a ten-day window in April when teams may compete in the online contest. When ready, an adult supervisor logs onto the contest Web site and starts the clock. There are a total of 30 problems in the contest and high school students must solve as many as they can within a 90-minute timeframe.

“Toon Squad members leveraged their expertise in mathematics, collaboration, and leadership to accomplish their goals and receive a first-place finish and a national honorable mention,” said Dawn Wendt, Talented and Gifted Teacher, Urbandale High School. “Aligning with the district’s focus on [Quality/Continual Improvement](#), my role in working with these incredibly talented students has

been as a facilitator, an intellectual provocateur, and mentor in order to encourage them as they strive for excellence. I congratulate the entire team as their work is commendable.”

In order to solve as many problems as they could within 90 minutes, the team divided and distributed problems among team members. Their problem-solving process included what is known as the ‘3-Ds’ (Documentation, Demonstration, and Defense). Before submitting an answer, each team member had to demonstrate and defend how he came to that answer. This type of learning through active engagement is supported by Urbandale’s continued focus on Quality learning practices.

Transforming education throughout the Urbandale district is at the core of every learning experience—be it competing in international mathematic contests or learning effective methods for group collaboration—every experience is an opportunity for growth and continual learning. By doing so, Urbandale schools continue their relentless and passionate pursuit of discovering innovative ways for bringing learning to life for everyone.

About Urbandale Community School District

The Urbandale Community School District includes portions of Des Moines and Urbandale, Iowa. The district serves over 4,000 students in six elementary schools, one middle school, and one comprehensive high school. The Urbandale district supports an increasingly diverse student population where 50 languages are spoken. Building on the existing foundation of excellence in education, Urbandale is transforming education throughout the district. By implementing innovative [Quality/Continual Improvement](#) tools and tactics that create learning environments that more fully engage, challenge, and motivate students, Urbandale is taking transformation from theory into practice. Urbandale prepares students for becoming life-long learners and is a school district that brings learning to life for everyone. To learn more, visit: www.urbandaleschools.com

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