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NEW BERLIN, WI, May 8, 2012 -

New Berlin Eisenhower AC DEC takes National Title

It has been an exciting year for the New Berlin Eisenhower Academic Decathlon team who won the Division II state championship in March. This accomplishment provided an opportunity for the team to compete in the online national championship competition as a medium school. In this competition, Eisenhower's Ac Dec team earned the National Championship for medium-sized schools with an overall score of 34,789 points, more than 7,000 points above the second place team from California.

The Academic Decathlon® is a ten-event team competition wherein students match their intellects with students from other schools. Students are tested in ten categories: Art, Economics, Essay, Interview, Language and Literature, Mathematics, Music, Science, Social Science, and Speech. Each high school enters a team of nine students: 3 "A" or Honor students, 3 "B" or Scholastic students, and 3 "C" or Varsity students. The theme for the 2011–2012 Academic Decathlon® season is *The Age of Empire*.

Coaches of Eisenhower's team, Stephanie Blue and Erik Fountain, began working with students in May of 2011 to prepare for the competitions throughout this school year. Team members along with other students in the Academic Decathlon class work together to develop their skills and learn the content associated with the theme in each of the academic categories. Students meet during class, before school, after school, and on weekends to practice and learn the necessary material to be competitive in their competition with other strong schools in Wisconsin and the nation.

Eisenhower's accomplishment in the online nationals is recognition of the continued growth of the program over several years, culminating in the online national championship along with a number of individual awards. Competing members of this year's team and their individual place at the national competition are as follows:

Honors Division

Rishil Mehta 1st Place
Jacob Zimmerman 2nd Place
Theodore Jennaro 3^d Place

Scholastic Division

Abigail Nilsson 1st Place
Kevin Plazak 3rd Place
Jinwook Kang 4th Place

Varsity Division

Jack Losi-Strader 1st Place
Emma Krueger 3rd Place
Antonio Zemlika

These individual awards were earned with more than forty-five students, previously qualifying through their state competition, competing in each category. In addition to these individual place winners, Jack Losi-Strader not only placed first in his division, he also placed first in each of the individual categories within his division and was nearly 1,500 points above his nearest competitor in the overall category standings.

When asked about this achievement, coaches Stephanie Blue, an English instructor and Erik Fountain, a math teacher stated, "We could not be more proud of this group of dedicated individuals. Throughout

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the season they showed a commitment to learning that surpassed anything we have been a part of in 18 years in teaching. We are so happy to see them recognized for this achievement.”

New Berlin Eisenhower principal Michael Fesenmaier commented, “This is an accomplishment that recognizes the expertise, passion, and dedication of the coaches, support of the parents, and the commitment, intellect, and collaboration of the team members and other members of the Academic Decathlon class. This success is also a product of the efforts of the dedicated instructional staff at New Berlin Eisenhower for their continuing efforts to support learning in each of the areas of the decathlon along with their daily dedication to our entire student body. “

Students will be recognized in a school assembly upon receipt of their national team and individual awards.

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