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NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kimberly Students Add Up Awards at New Mathematical Problem Solving Contest at UW-Oshkosh

Kimberly, Wis. – May 17, 2017 – Students from [J.R. Gerritts Middle School](#) (JRG) and [Kimberly High School](#) (KHS) participated in the first ever [UW-Oshkosh Mathematical Problem Solving Contest](#). Both participating Kimberly schools had great success at the competition while the students developed their problem solving skills.

JRG was named the [First Place Top Performing Middle School out of 39 schools](#) and had two teams bring home awards. JRG had 20 students participate in the inaugural contest. Mason Freund, Brayden Mau, Sophia Schumerth and Kendall Sullivan brought home a team Gold Medal.



Brayden Mau, Mason Freund, Kendall Sullivan and Sophia Schumerth earned a Middle School Team Gold Medal.



Jacob Farrell, Nicholas Logan, Nathan Barlow and Cooper Polczinski earned a Middle School Team Silver Medal.

A silver medal was earned by the JRG team comprised of Nathan Barlow, Jacob Farrell, Nicholas Logan and Cooper Polczinski. "The best thing about our JRG students is that they love math and are proud of it," said Ulli Balistreri, teacher and PACE Coordinator.

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Kimberly High School had eight students compete at the event. Two KHS students brought home individual awards: Octavio Leon earned the 9th Grade Silver Medal and Mason Lawrenz brought home the 10th Grade Silver Medal. Jacob Mau scored in the top ten percent in the 9th Grade Individual Division. These three students along with Natalie Brandt were on a team that scored in the top 10% at the competition for the High School Team Division.

“Not only did the KHS students do an awesome job at competing in the problem solving contest, they enjoyed experiencing and seeing mathematics at work in a variety of real world STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) situations they could not have experienced in high school,” said Stacy Shrode, math teacher at KHS.



These Kimberly High School students participated in the Mathematical Problem Solving Contest at UW-Oshkosh, pictured left to right: (front row) Madelyn Davenport and Leon Octavio, (back row) Nan Wu, Olivia Bonfigt, Natalie Brandt, Mason Lawrenz Logan Martilla, and Jacob Mau.

Through the competition, all of the students had opportunities to apply different problem solving techniques to math problems that they have never encountered.

Although this was the very first year organizers hosted the contest, over 800 middle and high school students from around Wisconsin attended. In addition to the mathematical contest, students had opportunities to try different hands-on and non-traditional STEM activities.

The organizer’s goal is to make it an annual competition that inspires students to get excited about math and career opportunities within the mathematics field. This was a great opportunity to help students reach their potential in academics and learn about career options as they plan for their future.

About the Kimberly Area School District

The Kimberly Area School District is a progressive public school district committed to providing the best possible education available to students. Its responsibility is to help lead the way in developing well-rounded students and future citizens. The District wants every student to be given the opportunity to reach their potential through academics, the arts and co-curricular activities. It encompasses approximately 17 square miles and serves over 5,000 students in one 4K center, four elementary schools (5K-4), two intermediate schools (5-6), one middle school (7-8) and one high school (9-12). To learn more about the Kimberly Area School District, call (920)788-7900 or visit www.kimberly.k12.wi.us.