

My name is Bing Cai and I am the father of a 4th grader and a 9th grader.

First I would like to thank MCPS for providing programs of accelerated and enriched instruction for students in elementary, middle and high school, and particularly for the Math, Science, and Computer Science Magnet Program at Montgomery Blair High School. This magnet program is designed to offer accelerated instruction in the areas of math, science, and computer science for highly motivated, ambitious and able students. It is a rigorous program that emphasizes the development of problem-solving skills, critical thinking, and the pursuit of both independent and collaborative research projects.

The Blair magnet program is in its 25th school year, and you should know that the money invested in this program has been well spent. I would like to show you some of the achievements of students enrolled in this program. In **Addendum 1**, you can see our students have won many awards in math, science and computer science. Each year 40 to 50 percent of the Blair magnet students are National Merit Finalists. Blair's National Merit winners typically constitute about 1/3 of the students in the entire county who win that award. (Keep in mind that the Blair Magnet program only has 100 students in each year's class.) Another big science competition is the Intel Science Talent Search. The Blair Magnet averages 2 finalists and 12 semifinalists EACH year. On average, 5 percent of the finalists in this national contest each year come from Blair.

We all agree that "No child should be left behind." As a corollary, though, no kids should be held back. One of the great benefits of the magnet programs is that they allow these highly-able kids to study subjects both "widely" and "deeply." Because they learn quickly, they have the luxury of going off on tangents and students will study a subject in more detail. They can also learn more advanced curriculum while remaining in high school with their age mates. As you can see in **Addendum 2**, most magnet students complete all required math, 4 years of science classes and AP computer science in the first two years. This allows them to explore advanced topics of interest more deeply and specifically in the junior and senior years.

We believe it is very important for MCPS to continue to support the Blair magnet program with adequate funding and resources. The advanced courses require the teachers in the magnet program to put in extra effort and time preparing and teaching. In science and computer science, the teachers must stay current with developments in the field and constantly update the curriculum. Please consider these requirements both when you recruit qualified teachers to teach in the magnet program and when you assign duties to the magnet teachers.

Lastly, someone may ask, if the Magnet program is so good, do you have a Nobel Prize winner? The answer is "no, not yet", BUT, you never know, one day in October, you will wake up to a news announcement that there is a Nobel Prize winner from Montgomery County, Maryland, and he or she is a Blair high school graduate.

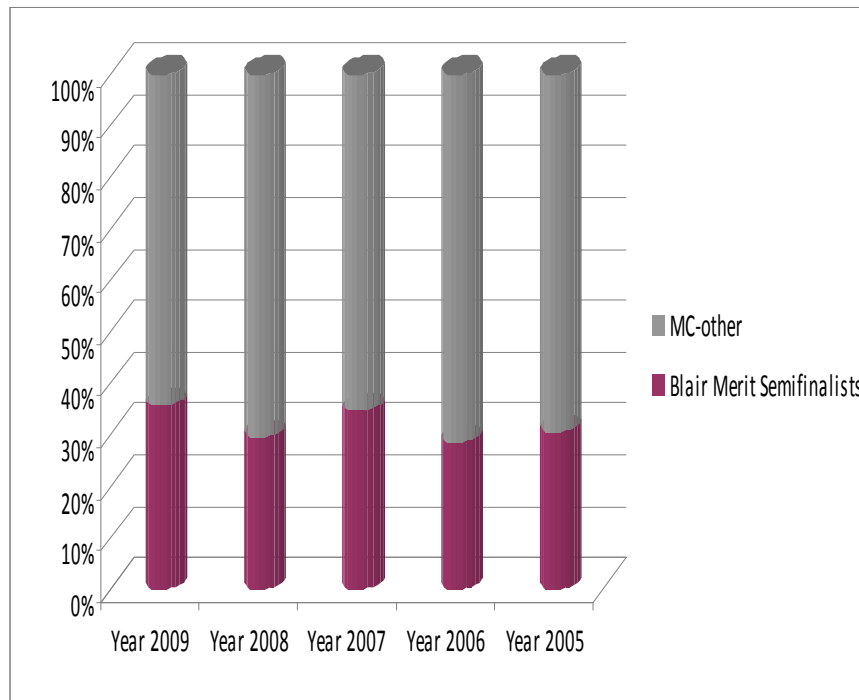
THANK YOU! PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE BLAIR MAGNET PROGRAM!

Addendum 1
Awards (1988-2008)
Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Students

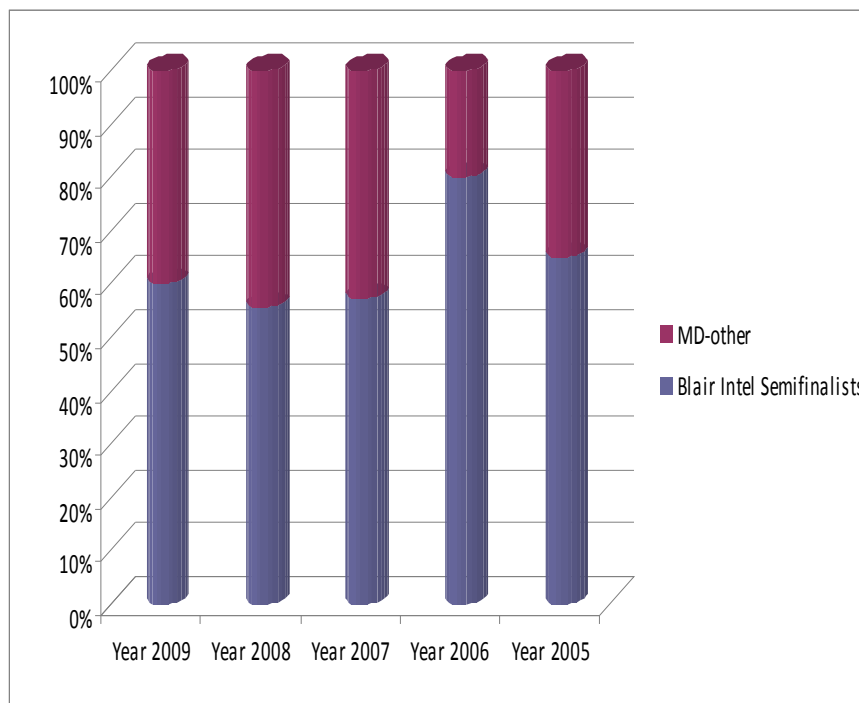
- 1988-89
 - **Howard Gbioff '89, Sven Khatri '89, Daniel Mall '89, and Maneesh Aggrawal ('90) win a \$50,000-\$100,000 Cyber 910 workstation at the ETA High School Supercomputer Challenge.**
- 1989-90
 - **Maneesch Agrawala '90 and Joshua Fischman '90 named Finalists in Westinghouse Science Talent Search**
- 1991-92
 - **Benjamin Jun '92 and Debbie VanderZwaag '92 named Finalists in Westinghouse Science Talent Search**
 - **Wei-Hwa Huang '93 wins Silver Medal at the International Mathematics Olympiad.**
- 1992-93
 - **Steve Chien '93, Wei-Hwa Huang '93, and Elizabeth Mann '93 named Finalists in Westinghouse Science Talent Search.**
 - **Wei-Hwa Huang '93 wins Silver Medal at the International Mathematics Olympiad.**
- 1993-94
 - **Jacob Lurie '96 wins Gold Medal at the International Mathematics Olympiad.**
- 1994-95
 - **Samit Dasgupta '95 named Finalist in Westinghouse Science Talent Search.**
 - **Aaron Andalman '95 and Mark Hudacsko '95 win First Place at the International Science Fair.**
- 1995-96
 - **Jacob Lurie '96 wins First Place in Westinghouse Science Talent Search.**
 - **Carl Miller '97 wins Silver Medal at the International Mathematics Olympiad.**
- 1996-97
 - **Gautam Mukunda '97 named Presidential Scholar.**
- 1997-98
 - **David Wildstrom '98 named Finalist in Westinghouse Science Talent Search.**
- 1998-99
 - **Wei-Li Deng '99, James Hansen '99, Grace Lin '99, Michael Maire '99, David Moore '99, and Scott Safranek '99 named Finalists in Intel Science Talent Search.**
 - **Manish Gala '99, Andy Mills '99, Jacob Paul '99, Kaushik Roy '99, and Jason Rubinstein '00 win First Place at the National Science Bowl.**
- 1999-00
 - **Elizabeth Epstein '00 and Jonathan Simon '00 named Finalists in Intel Science Talent Search.**
 - **Anne Lee '00 named Presidential Scholar.**
- 2000-01
 - **Alan Dunn '01 and William Pastor '01 named Finalists in Intel Science Talent Search**
- 2001-02

- Jennifer Alyano '02, Jean Li '02, and Jacob Burnim '02 named Finalists in Intel Science Talent Search.
- Jacob Burnim '02 wins Silver Medal at the International Olympiad in Informatics
- 2002-03
 - Anatoly Preygel '03 named Finalist in Intel Science Talent Search.
 - Lisa Leung '03 named Presidential Scholar.
- 2003-04
 - Melis Anathar '04 and Gordon Su '04 named Finalists in Intel Science Talent Search.
 - Emily Tsui '04 wins Silver Medal at the International Chemistry Olympiad.
- 2004-05
 - Abigail Fraeman '05, Sherri Geng '05, and Michael Forbes '05 named Finalists in Intel Science Talent Search.
 - Sherri Geng '05 named Presidential Scholar.
 - Matt McCutchen '07 wins Gold Medal at the International Olympiad in Informatics.
 - Brian Lawrence '07 wins Gold Medal at the International Mathematics Olympiad.
- 2005-06
 - Minh Huynh-Le '06 and Chelsea Zhang '06 named Finalists in Intel Science Talent Search.
 - Yueuang Li '06 and John Kim '06 win Siemens Award for Advanced Placement.
- 2006-07
 - Brian Lawrence '07 wins Silver Medal at the International Mathematics Olympiad.
 - Brian Lawrence '07 and Matt McCutchen '07 named Finalist in Intel Science Talent Search.
 - Kathy Jee '07 named Presidential Scholar.
 - Audrey Kibetin named High School Journalist of the Year by the Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association.
 - Matt McCutchen '07 wins Siemens Award for Advanced Placement.
 - Matt McCutchen '07 wins Gold Medal at the International Olympiad in Informatics.
- 2007-08
 - Louis Wasserman '08 named Finalists in Intel Science Talent Search.
 - Julie Zhu '08 and Christina Zou '08 named Presidential Scholars.
 - Christina Zou '08 wins Siemens Award for Advanced Placement.
 - Jonathan Gootenberg '09 wins a Gold Medal at the International Biology Olympiad.
 - Edward Gan '09 wins a Gold Medal at the International Physics Olympiad.
- 2008-09
 - Jonathan Gootenberg '09 and Sneha Kannan '09 win Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement.
 - Elizabeth So '09, Ethan Wang '09, and Jeremy Fallick '10 win First Place at the It's Academic Regional Final.
 - Purnima Balakrishnan '09, Mario Choi '11, Jitu Das '09, Jacob Hurwitz '10, and Sang Tian '09 win first place at the American Computer Science League All-Star Competition.

National Merit Semifinalists



Intel Semifinalists



Addendum 2

Grade	Subject	Blair Magnet Program	<u>Advanced</u> Student Elsewhere
9th	Math	Pre-Calculus	Geometry or Algebra II
	Science	Physics and Chemistry	Biology
	Computer Science	Fundamentals of Computer Science	None
10th	Math	Pre-Calculus/Calculus (AP)	Algebra II or Pre-Calculus
	Science	Biology and Earth Science	Chemistry
	Computer Science	Algorithms and Data Structures(AP)	Programming 1
11th	Math	Calculus (AP)/ Post-AP electives	Pre-Calculus or Calculus
	Science	Choice of science electives	Physics
	Computer Science	Choice of post-AP electives	Programming 2 (AP)
12th	Math	Choice of post-AP electives	Calculus or ??
	Science	Choice of science electives	Choice of AP Science Classes
	Computer Science	Choice of post-AP electives	Programming 3 or ??