

STUDENTS ADVANCE TO STATE COMPETITION



GINGER RAE DUNBAR — DIGITAL FIRST MEDIA

Aansh Devpura center, a fifth-grade student at Fern Hill Elementary School of the West Chester Area School District won the final round in the fourth- and fifth-grade level. From left to right are: Fern Hill Elementary School Principal Rebecca Eberly, fifth-grade student Brendan Miller, Devpura, fifth-grade student Auston Scott and teacher Joseph Mulvey.

81 Chester County students competed individually, representing 23 schools

By Ginger Rae Dunbar
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DOWNINGTOWN » Six Chester County students will advance to the state competition to represent the county in a math-related academic competition after earning their spot Friday in the local portion.

The competition, called the “24 Challenge” tournament, began locally with 81 students representing 23 Chester County public and non-public schools. The students competed individually. Students in fourth and fifth grade competed in one level, while sixth-

grade students competed in another. The school districts could send three students per competition level to the second annual tournament held at the Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU). The tournament-style competition began in 1988.

The 24 challenge is completed by using the four numbers on a card by adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing the numbers to total 24. The student who correctly answers the quickest wins points for that solution. The student who had the most points advanced to the next round.

The top 12 students were assigned randomly to the six tables in their level with up to three other students to compete in the semi-finals round. The six winners from that round advanced to the finals. The two finals rounds had three finalists compete for

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Three students competed in the fourth- and fifth-grade level final round of the “24Challenge” tournament held at the Chester County Intermediate Unit on Friday. Aansh Devpura, left, and Brendan Miller, right, are fifth-grade students at Fern Hill Elementary School of the West Chester Area School District. Emma Tomon, a fifth-grade student at East Pikeland Elementary School of the Phoenixville Area School District, is in the center.

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the county trophy.

These six winners will also advance to the state competition in Harrisburg on June 15.

Aansh Devpura, a fifth-grade student at Fern Hill Elementary School of the West Chester Area School District won the final round in the fourth- and fifth-grade level. Emma Tomon, a fifth-grade student at East Pikeland Elementary School of the Phoenixville Area School District and Brendan Miller, a fifth-grade student at Fern Hill Elementary School also competed in that final round.

Devpura said he practiced daily for the past three months. He answered most of the questions during the final round.

"I was nervous, but it was also fun," Devpura said. "It was challenging. There were a lot of good people and you had to do your best to win."

Fern Hill teacher Joseph Mulvey said that classmates Devpura, Miller and Auston Scott are friends who make a "great team" that had fun competing together. Fern Hill Elementary School Principal Rebecca Eberly said that Mulvey created a culture in his classroom that the students enjoyed. She said that the students were supportive of each other. The students con-

gratulated each other for their accomplishments. Eberly and Mulvey both told the students that they were proud of them and proud of how they represented their school.

Pranav Muthaiyan, a sixth-grade student at Ss. Philip and James of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Schools, won the final round in his level. He competed against Nandhini Parthasarathy, a sixth-grade student at Charles F. Patton Middle School of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District and Cassandra Hung, a sixth-grade student at Stetson Middle School of the West Chester Area School District.

Muthaiyan said he prac-

ticed at school and at home with the math challenge cards. He said he tried to memorize the mathematics. He said he had a good experience, despite his nerves.

"In the single digit round, I felt uncomfortable, but I slowly got into it and the nerves went away," Muthaiyan said.

Twelve students in the fourth- and fifth-grade level and 12 sixth-grade students received a silver medal from the CCIU competition. Additionally, 15 students received a bronze medal for their grade level.

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