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It's Academic for Madeira

For the first time in recent years, the Madeira High School (MHS) Academic Team qualified for the state tournament, as members of the Cincinnati Academic League (CAL).

The MHS Academic Team is a school club open to all MHS students. They compete against other high schools by answering questions about American Literature, Mathematics, World History, Fine Arts, Life Science, English/World Literature, American Government, Economics, Physical Science, World Geography, American History, and occasionally Pop Culture. In the CAL they finished the regular season in second place with a 7-1 record. Outside of the league they played two games against Little Miami which made their record 9-1 outside of tournaments, with an average margin of victory for the year 59 points. Seniors René Polanco and Niklas Polanco were named first team all-conference, and senior Steven Wu was named second team all-conference.

By winning the Cincinnati State Academic League Championship the team qualified for the Ohio Academic Challenge (OAC) Southwest Regional Tournament – a round-robin competition in which teams had to lose twice to be eliminated. The top two teams out of the 16 competing moved on to the OAC State Championship Tournament.

Madeira beat Blanchester and then lost to Mason (the eventual regional champion) by 3 points. In the elimination bracket, MHS beat Blanchester, Harrison, and then Little Miami by 2 points in "overtime" to make it to the semifinal game. In the semifinal, they lost to Wyoming by 3. The top 2 teams from each region make it to the championship. There are 16 teams in the state tournament, so the 4 teams from around Ohio who scored the most points but were not in the regional championship game received wild card berths to the state championship.

Members of the state bound MHS Academic Team are Miki Hansen, Olivia Heath, Murray Katkin, Bea Manning, Wesley Nelson, Niklas Polanco, René Polanco, Sofia Rane, Mira Shonk, Owen Tucker, Steven Wu, and Keane Pence. The team is coached by Barb Linser and Ian Avery.

A walk through pep rally for the State qualifiers is planned for the team at Madeira High School April 29.



*Pictured right (l to r): MHS Academic Team
Coach Barb Linser, Sophia Rane, Mira Shonk,
Murray Katkin, Steven Wu, René Polanco, Niklas
Polanco, Coach Ian Avery. Not pictured: Miki
Hansen, Olivia Heath, Bea Manning, Wesley
Nelson, Owen Tucker, and Keane Pence.*