



2009 – 2019  
**10 YEAR** *Celebration*

*May 18, 2019 6–8pm*  
*Northville Community Center*

# Mission Statement

The **mission** of Northville Academic Games is to provide a nurturing and focused environment for students to develop their intellectual capacities as well as mature into responsible individuals through fun games and friendly competitions. We cultivate positive attitude and fairness in players who can win with class and lose with grace. Our core values are **Passion, Integrity, Excellence, Team Work and Fun.**



2018-2019 Minor (3rd-4th graders) Team

# PROGRAM

Opening Simona Marincean

Guest Speaker Pam Champagne  
Michigan League of Academic Games

Guest Speaker Karen Chapel  
Former coach and founder

Raffle

District Recognition Mary Kay Gallagher  
Northville Public Schools

Guest Speaker Eric Nelson  
Ann Arbor Academic Games

Raffle

Senior Recognition & Scholarship Award Madhur Malhotra

Closing Yanli Zhao

# Saaz Malhotra



## **Favorite thing about AG:**

My favorite thing about AG is the kids. I have met some of my closest friends through AG.

## **Favorite memory of AG:**

My favorite memory of AG is when we had the jumping competitions at Nationals in 5th grade.

## **Future Goals:**

In the future, I plan on completing medical school and becoming a doctor.

## **The university to attend in the fall:**

HPME at Northwestern

Throughout the last 9 years, I have devoted hundreds of hours playing and teaching Academic Games. Academic Games created an unparalleled opportunity for me to explore the complex world of mathematics, set-theory, English, social studies and leadership. In Equations, I have been able to learn and apply intriguing mathematical concepts, such as modular mathematics and complex numbers. On-Sets has taught me how to strategically approach large amounts of information by breaking it down into well defined sets. Propaganda has made English, a subject I had no interest in, a lot more enjoyable and taught me valuable skills needed to understand how information is presented. Both Presidents and Current Events have given me the opportunity to learn information I would have never learned in school. As the high school club co-president and co-founder, I was able to refine my leaderships and communication skills.

The skills I developed from playing these games and being a part of this club for the past decade help me articulate my thoughts in and outside of a classroom and will be instrumental in my future endeavors. In addition, the kids in Academic Games have been another family for me. The bonds cultivated remain strong outside of AG too. These kids are my closest friends and will continue to be for a long time into the future. Without Academic Games, I would never have been able to make these friendships that will last a lifetime.

Overall, Academic Games has not just been a club to me, it has been my foundation. It has taught me valuable skill and lessons I couldn't learn anywhere else and provided a group of friends I love and will continue to stay in touch with as we all go our different way after high school.



# Isabella Lee

## **Favorite thing about AG:**

I love being able to hang out and have fun with friends while playing games that stimulate my mind. We learn tips and tricks from each other, and we refine our skills at thinking of multiple solutions for one goal as well as making the best of our limited resources. I especially like it when we're learning a new trick/topic together, we suddenly have this "aha!" moment as we all figure it out together.

## **Favorite memory of AG:**

My favorite memory of AG was during a Super Tournament when our team and our opposing team did not play each other. Instead, we just talked and laughed loudly about random things, to the point where other teams that weren't playing us joined in on our laughs. This may have been against the rules, but I loved it nonetheless.

## **Future Goals:**

In the future, I plan to work in a consulting firm in which we help businesses solve their problems. I strive to make use of the analytical and problem solving skills that I've learned through Academic Games.

## **The university to attend in the fall:**

University of Michigan- Ann Arbor



As a member of the Academic Games (AG) club for nine years, I've realized that AG isn't just a club, it's always a learning experience. Over the years, I've developed close bonds with each of my teammates. We often start each meeting with some light banter as we greet each other and settle down. However, when we get serious, the experience I have at each practice is exhilarating. As my teammates and I start brainstorming, I can almost hear the gears shifting in our minds. We'd begin with a simple idea and we just start building off from one another. Through my AG experiences, I've learned the significance of collaboration. Everyone brings something to the table, and oftentimes a small, contributing idea can turn a good idea into a great one. I've learned that only with humility and open-mindedness can I truly gain from constructive criticism and multiple perspectives. I know that we can always learn new perspectives and leverage one another's strengths. I simply thrive in the stimulating environment that we create.

In addition to the art of collaboration, playing the games themselves has brought about many life lessons. From playing in high-stakes environments with time constraints, I learned to work under stress and pressure. From needing to create solutions out of practically thin air, I learned to think creatively and persevere through anything life throws at me. And finally, I learned how to make the most out of what's given to me, similar to how I've developed valuable life skills from playing a simple game.

# Surbhi Neole

## **Favorite thing about AG:**

My favorite thing about AG is that it allowed me to meet some of my best friends: my teammates. My only regret is not starting AG earlier; otherwise I could have had more memories with these amazing people. Still, we have had so much fun together (with some learning thrown in as well)!



## **Favorite memory of AG:**

My favorite memory of AG is very hard to pick because every time our team meets, something fun always happens! Whether it be at weekly practices (gossip sessions), super tournaments (3 days of cramming and hide and seek), or nationals (a week of waiting to go to Universal and going to Universal). I will treasure all these moments, whether we were winning or losing, playing or practicing, studying or laughing.

## **Future Goals:**

I want to study either child psychiatry or anesthesiology.

## **The university to attend in the fall:**

Wayne State University

Academic Games (AG) has been a constant in my life for the past eight years. Thus, to me, AG is more than just mastering math and strategy. It is making lasting friendships. It is learning proper values. It is forging a legacy.

First and foremost, I have enjoyed AG because of the amazing people that I get to know. Of course, with Saturday Tournaments, I get to compete with and befriend many from Detroit and Ann Arbor. Nonetheless, the relationships that I truly treasure are the ones on our team. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to get to know Annabel, Isabella, Krishna, Jean, Timothy, Saaz, and Dhruv over the past eight years through AG. Because of these incredible individuals, I always look forward to practice no matter how many facts or goals we need to memorize. They, along with our extremely talented and patient Coach Malhotra, are the reason I have continued with AG for this long.

While AG has taught me more than I ever want to know about factorials, President Taft, and emotional appeals, it has instilled values in me that I will never forget. With every shake, I have learned to be a humble winner, and more importantly a gracious loser. At the conclusion of each round, I have learned how to cope with disappointment and support others. During Elementary/Middle practices, I learned what it means to be a role model and instructor. All these experiences have shaped who I am today, and I will never forget that it was AG that did so.

Joining and continuing this activity has made me part of a legacy will continue long after I am gone: a legacy of excellence that connects intellectuals and provides them with the tools to achieve their highest potential.

# Krishna Patel

## **Favorite thing about AG:**

AG has taught me so many things, so it is nearly impossible to pick my one favorite aspect of it. If I had to choose one, the most amazing part of AG for me has been the family I have gained. For the past several years, my teammates and I have bonded every night in Mrs. Malhotra's basement. We play games, we gossip, and we learn, but most importantly, we laugh so much. The joy that I have found through my teammates is irreplaceable.

## **Favorite memory of AG:**

It is very hard for me to pick one memory from AG that I cherish the most, but the place where I have made the most memories is at the Super Tournament. For those two days, not only am I surrounded by my teammates, but I receive the opportunity to converse with dozens of other highly motivated students. We always have a great time throughout the games, laughing while playing cutthroat games to win the championship. I have made so many friends from other schools across the state due to the Super Tournament.

## **Future Goals:**

I plan to pursue a bachelor's degree in a biology-related field, and apply to and attend dentistry school and pursue a career as a dentist. Aside from my career, I plan to continue dancing for the rest of my life, as it is a major part of who I am.

## **The university to attend in the fall:**

The University of Michigan - Ann Arbor



I tiptoed into the cafeteria, hiding behind my dad's tall frame. As we took our seats, the information session began. The Academic Games head coach began explaining what the club was all about. As she discussed the intense games, I felt my heartbeat increase rapidly. As a 4th grader, the talk of these competitive games intimidated me greatly. Nonetheless, my dad signed me up to join the club, and I went to the first practice a couple of days later. Once practice was over, I could not stop blabbering about how fun it was. Not only did I learn about the games and how to play, but I loved the new people I had met. From that moment, I knew that Academic Games would be a huge influence in my life.

Academic Games has given me so much. Firstly, it has helped me develop critical qualities, such as time management, communication, and study skills. Through Academic Games, I learned facts and problems that I would not have learned until much later in my life. This gave me the opportunity to mature faster than the kids around me and apply my knowledge in the real world. Aside from academic abilities, Academic Games has given me the most wonderful family. I look forward to every practice, and I cherish the time I get to spend with my best friends through this club. Additionally, I have developed friendships with high schoolers across the state of Michigan through Academic Games Super Tournaments. Without this amazing club, I would not be the person I am today. Now, as I walk into my coach's basement for practice every week, I feel that same rush that I did when I was in 4th grade, and I know that I will keep Academic Games in my life forever.

# Timothy Wu



## **Favorite thing about AG:**

Academic Games by its very nature is all about problem solving and thinking outside-the-box. It transformed my thinking pattern from “let me find the correct solution” to “let me find the most creative, most astonishing, most elegant solution.”

## **Favorite memory of AG:**

It's so difficult to choose one specific memory from these past nine years. I guess all the friends I've made through AG; I've met and gotten close to so many people, both from Northville and beyond.

## **Future Goals:**

I plan to study Math and Computer Science in college, and then hopefully go into Silicon Valley and get a job in the cyber-security industry. Also, maybe in a few years we'll be seeing a California League of Academic Games :)

## **The university to attend in the fall:**

Stanford University

I've participated in numerous clubs throughout middle and high school, and each one has taught me different skills. However, no activity I've participated in has even come close to giving me as much intrinsic value as Academic Games has. Academic Games transformed my thinking pattern from "let me find the correct solution" to "let me find the most creative, most astonishing, most elegant solution." It has had a larger impact on my thinking pattern than any other activity, and it taught me necessary problem solving, creative thinking, and teamwork skills that will prove invaluable as I enter college and beyond. Because like in Academic Games, life's problems have no single, correct solution; it is up to me to find my unique solution.

I started playing Academic Games in fourth grade, and from a competitor's standpoint, my Academic Games career peaked when I won first place in Sweepstakes in the Middle Division at the 2015 National Tournament. However, the most important thing I got from that tournament wasn't a trophy, but rather the realization that I had to share my knowledge with others; by keeping my experiences to myself, I too was just a trophy.

When I began teaching Academic Games, it was small; just helping out at summer camps and teaching some concepts to my brother's team. Soon, however, I fell in love with teaching. Academic Games provides an opportunity for kids to tackle problems of creative thinking and problem solving, which they've often never ever thought about. Nothing beats seeing the smiles on kids' faces when they finally understand the logic behind what they've learned. Through my teaching, I've discovered a new passion, and I can only hope to inspire these kids as much as they've inspired me.

# Jean Xiong

## **Favorite thing about AG:**

My favorite thing about Academic Games is how it prepares students to think in unconventional ways that put us years beyond our peers. This develops a camaraderie among players that cannot be imitated elsewhere.

## **Favorite memory of AG:**

My favorite memory of Academic Games is my first national tournament in West Virginia. It was one of my first times going out of state without my family and it was one of the most fun tournaments. We drove for over 12+ hours, stayed in cabins, and it was a great bonding experience with my team. It was exciting to play against teams from all around the country, but it was also a tournament where I was able to sit back and enjoy my experiences beyond how my team performed.



## **Future Goals:**

My future goal is to become a business lawyer.

## **The university to attend in the fall:**

The University of Michigan

Academic Games has been a vehicle for me to explore the vast boundaries of academics like no other. Not only has this organization helped me develop a finer appreciation for learning, but it has provided an extensive range of experiences that I will never forget. To me, Academic Games means being able to come together with people from across the country that share my values of scholarship, friendly competition, and love of learning.

My favorite aspect of Academic Games is the camaraderie among players. Not everyone knows what Academic Games is, but when you find someone who does, you immediately feel that comfortable connection as you bond over what your favorite game or goal is. Just recently, I had a Princeton interview and the man interviewing me pointed out Academic Games on my resume. As it turns out, he was a former Academic Games player and there was an immediate sense of understanding. Another example of this affinity among players is a Floridian girl I befriended in at a national tournament. After days of versing each other in various games, she and I exchanged numbers and we remain good friends despite living across the country.

I remember starting Academic Games with major misconceptions about what it was. I was under the impression that we'd be playing math card games after school and that would be it. Little did I know, Academic Games would teach me concepts years in advance of my schooling and it would take me across the country to meet and befriend people from a variety of states. I first joined Academic Games in fourth grade with a promise from my mom that I could quit if I didn't like it. Nine years down the line and I'm so glad to be a part of this wonderful organization.

# Annabel Yang

## **Favorite thing about AG:**

I appreciate the unique set of challenges each game presents. These have developed my analytical skills, building me into the multi-faceted Thinker I am today. My Academic Games experience definitely would not have been as amazing as it was if it were not for the people I have met. In my seven short years in the club, I have had the pleasure of growing up alongside my team, coach, and opponents, a community I can say, with confidence, is my favorite aspect of Academic Games.

## **Favorite memory of AG:**

Due to all the years I've invested in the club, it would be impossible for me to choose one out of all the unforgettable memories. Many of these memories involve specific rounds of games or a "eureka" moment, but most of them involve the people around me. These instances include, but are not limited to, meetings in the Malhotra basement, down time at tournaments, and practicing with the younger generations of Thinkers.

## **Future Goals:**

I am planning to pursue a degree in the biological sciences on a pre-medical or pre-health track. From there, I would like to continue that education until I can practice healthcare. However, I'm excited to see what opportunities the future will present and how those will likely change my goals.

## **The university to attend in the fall:**

The University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

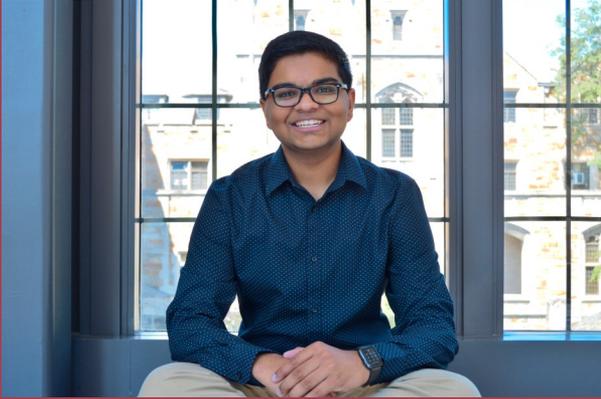


I have been playing Academic Games since fifth grade, and I still love it just as much as I did then. The various assortment of games challenge us to develop our analytical skills in math, language arts, and social studies. This ensures everyone finds “their game,” a game they feel most comfortable with thanks to hours of practice. For me, “my game” is Propaganda; the visual and verbal clues stimulate critical thinking about the use of language, a skill I find myself applying to everyday life.

One aspect of Academic Games I enjoy is the harmony of individual competition and teamwork. Although we compete separately, being on a team makes me feel like I am a part of something larger than myself. Through the years of practices, tournaments, wins, losses, and games of hotel-hide-and-seek endured together, my coach and team has evolved into an extension of my family, a community I truly value.

Each year, each round of each game continues to bring new, stimulating challenges that exercise the mind and require acute concentration. Since I have reached the highest division of difficulty as a player, I have begun to advance as a teacher. Annually, I go back to the summer camps, classes, and workshops that first nurtured my love for the game in order to give back to the new generation of players and thinkers. Seeing their persistence when faced with a difficult shake or their looks of epiphany when they learn a new concept renews my drive to become a better teacher and learner.

# Dhruv Patel



## **Favorite thing about AG:**

My favorite thing about Academic Games is how it teaches me new and useful information, while I also have a good time in a friendly and intelligent environment.

## **Favorite memory of AG:**

My favorite memory from Academic Games was at Nationals in Virginia, when we all went paddle boating in the lake.

## **Future Goals:**

I want to get a degree in computer science and potentially create my own company.

## **The university to attend in the fall:**

University of Michigan

# Flashback



2011 Amerman Academic Games Team



2012 Amerman Academic Games Team



2013 National Team, Charlotte NC



2014 1st National Sweepstake Champion, Knoxville TN



2015 National, Orlando FL



2016 National, Atlanta GA



2017 National, Wheeling VA (Photo: Gavin Song)



2018 National, Knoxville TN (Photo: Gavin Song)



2019 National, Orlando FL (Photo: Gavin Song)

# HALL OF FAME

Northville Academic Games teams and players have earned numerous state and national honors. Only champion titles are listed below.

<b>Year</b>	<b>State Champion</b>	<b>National Champion</b>
2010	Minor Equations, On-Sets	Did Not Attend
2011	Minor Equations, On-Sets, On-Words Elementary Wff N' Proof	Did Not Attend
2012	Minor Equations, On-Sets Elementary Equations, Wff N' Proof	Did Not Attend
2013	Minor Equations, On-Sets, On-Words Elementary Equations, On- Sets, Wff N' Proof	Elementary Equations (Team Lightning Cats) On-Sets (Team Fab Fives) Wff N' Proof (Team Fab Fives) Presidents (Team Austin Hu)
2014	Minor Equations, On-Words Elementary Equations, Wff N' Proof, Presidents	Elementary Sweepstakes (Team Time Square) On-Sets (Team Time Square) Equations (Team I like Pie)
2015	Minor Equations, On-Sets, On-Words Elementary Equations, On- Sets, Wff N' Proof, Propa- ganda Middle Wff N' Proof	Elementary Equations (Team Pie Face) On-Sets (Team Pie Face) Middle On-Sets (Team Chaotic Penguins) Wff N' Proof (Team Chaotic Penguins) Equations (Timothy Wu) Sweepstakes (Timothy Wu)

Year	State Champion	National Champion
2016	Minor Equations, On-Sets, On-Words Elementary Equations, On-Sets, Wff N' Proof Middle Presidents, Basic Wff N' Proof	Elementary Equations (Team Pirates) On-Sets (Team Pirates) Wff N' Proof (Team Mages ) Middle Wff N' Proof (Team Lords of Asia ) On-Sets (Liana Lau) Senior Wff N' Proof (Team North Face)
2017	Elementary Equations, On-Sets, Wff N' Proof Middle Equations, On-Sets, Wff N' Proof Junior Wff N' Proof, Propaganda	Elementary On-Sets (Team Cube of Duty) Wff N' Proof (Team Cube of Duty ) Middle Equations (Team 17.27 Over Pi ) Wff N' Proof (Team #hashtag99+ ) Propaganda (Andy Jiang) Equations (Jeffrey Zhang)
2018	Elementary Equations, On-Sets, Wff N' Proof, Linguishtik Middle Equations, On-Sets, Wff N' Proof, Linguishtik Junior Propaganda Senior Equations, Wff N' Proof	Elementary Equations (Team Simplifiers) Linguishtik (Team Masterminds) Wff N' Proof (Team Masterminds) Middle Wff N' Proof (Team Dank Themes) Linguishtik (Team Dank Themes) Sweepstakes (Team Dank Themes ) Sweepstakes (Akshaya Kannikeswara) Wff N' Proof (Akshaya Kannikeswara) Equations (Bianca Brie)
2019	Middle Wff N' Proof Junior Wff N' Proof Junior Equations Senior Equations Senior Propaganda	Middle Wff N' Proof (Team The Defenders) Junior Wff N' Proof (Team Optimus Prime) On-Sets (Team Wff Lives Matter) Equations (Dillan Lau)

# THANKS

**We sincerely thank Northville Public Schools Administrators for their continued support to our program!**

**Mary K. Gallagher**, Northville Public Schools Superintendent

**Cynthia L. Jankowski**, Northville Public School Board President

**Roland Hwang**, Northville Public School Board Vice President

**Sabrina LaRocca**, NHS Academic Games Sponsor

**William R. Jones**, Hillside Middle School Principal

**Brad O'Neill**, Meads Mill Middle School Principal

**Marco Marando**, Amerman Elementary School Principal

**We also thank our volunteers who serve on the Northville Academic Games Committee for their dedication to our players year after year!**

**President** Yanli Zhao

**Vice Presidents** Krishna Budaraju, Madhur Malhotra

**Treasurer** Angela Lee

**Secretary** Simona Marincean

**Event Coordinator** Ning Zhang

**Coaches** Krishna Budaraju, Cheryl McGonigle, Madhur Malhotra, Simona Marincean, Kanni Subramanian, Senay Tascioglu, Yang Yang, Yanli Zhao

**School Coordinators** Jinny Kim, Angela Lee, Abha Pundhir, Paula Sand, Cynthia Zhang, Ning Zhang

**And thank you to all our parents for your trust and support!**