



PRESS RELEASE

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Cedarburg High School Mock Trial Club Headed to State

CEDARBURG, WI - A relatively new club at Cedarburg High School brings the court system to life for students. A team of CHS students competed in the annual Wisconsin Mock Trial Regional Competition on February 4 in Green Bay. Dan Irwin, CHS educator and club advisor, along with CHS parents and lawyer coaches Eric Bolander and Andy Phillips, entered two teams in this year's competition. This is CHS' 5th year for the club and competing in the WI Mock Trial competition.

The teams prepared both the prosecution and defense sides of a case to qualify for the competition. During the mock trial, six team members participate - three act as lawyers and three as witnesses. Using facts and case materials developed by Wisconsin attorneys, students gain a deeper understanding of the court system as they develop their arguments and build their cases. It is run as close to an actual trial as possible. There are opening and closing statements, direct and cross-examinations, evidence submission, and objections raised. The teams present their case in front of a presiding judge while being evaluated by two scoring judges. Teams win a trial by receiving the most votes from the judges.

CHS had one group advance, winning all 12 of the possible ballots they were eligible for and qualifying for the state competition on March 3rd and 4th in Madison. They are the first team to qualify for the state competition.

“To say I am extremely proud of this group would be an understatement. To watch a group work as hard as they did and then meet the challenge when it came time to compete is very gratifying,” said Mr. Irwin. “From where we were five years ago when we started this club to where we are today is a testament to the dedication and commitment of these students and volunteer coaches. I just feel privileged to be along for the ride to state.”



Front L-R: Zakira Masslich, Katelyn Davis, Marissa D'Amico, Macy Ertl, Jayne Phillips, Grace Mossberg, Maggie Bolander. Back L-R: Dan Irwin, Mario Truong, Blake Johnson, Andy Phillips, Eric Bolander.