

Name: Evan Erickson

Current Grade: 12

Hobbies: D&D, playing oboe, tutoring, overthinking.

Clubs: Minnesota All State Math Team Captain, Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphony

Contest/Competition Experience or Honors: National Merit Scholar, Three time AIME qualifier, Four Time AMC 12 Honor Roll, Fifth Place Calculus Exam 2021 Johns Hopkins Math Tournament, 2021 US Physics Traveling Team, 2021 IPhO Gold Medalist.

Autobiography:

When I was eight, I invented long division. Unfortunately, I was not the first. After I overheard my siblings complaining about the trials of it, I set my efforts on surviving the upcoming pain. In the process, I invented long division, which adds to my things-that-I-invented-independently-but-wasn't-the-first list. Also on that list was complementary counting and a specific case of Fermat's little theorem.

I have always been fascinated by the elegance of math, the process of starting with just basic assumptions and working them to get more information. I loved how intuition guided rigorous proof. The cumulative nature of math is a major motivator for me--how information that may have seemed useless becomes critical later on. Because I was homeschooled, I was able to learn at my own pace. When I was in fifth grade, I used open source classes to learn multivariable calculus.

My love of math led me to compete in academic competitions. I first learned about math competitions two weeks before competing in MathCounts; I won 2nd in my division. I continued in math competitions, becoming a three time AIME qualifier and captain of the Minnesota All-State Math Team. I learned about physics competitions through fellow competitors. Seeing it initially as just applied math, I expanded my preparation. I qualified for the USAPhO in my first year of competition. Unfortunately, that year was 2020; the USAPhO was only unofficially held.

I love learning, and I also love helping other people learn. I enjoy the process of understanding new topics, from first hearing it until it finally clicks, and having others experience that also. I've volunteered and worked in multiple educational programs, including founding an online math camp for middle schoolers and being a coach for my local middle school math league team.

I will be attending MIT in the fall and plan to major in physics.