

Justin Chen

Junior

Hobbies

Martial Arts, Ultimate Frisbee, Piano, Violin, Baking, Claiming Percival

Clubs

Physics Team, Science Bowl, Math Team and MBMT, Science Olympiad, SilverQuest Magazine

Experience

USAPhO Honorable Mention (2021), IOAA Silver Medal (2021), PUMaC Individual Finalist (2021), National Science Bowl 9th place (2021), Rocks 'n Minerals (2022)

Biography

Justin believed that he started learning physics in the fourth grade when he watched a documentary narrated by Michio Kaku. Physics turned out to be much more than supernova animations and zodiac signs and Justin was not disappointed. Over the course of middle school, Justin participated in competitions such as Science Bowl and Mathcounts that tested his love for math and physics. In high school Justin discovered in his freshman physics class that mechanics (so plain, right?) would be his favorite subject for its approachable elegance and real world applications – notably, his favorite problem involves a monkey climbing a pulley to reach a bunch of bananas.

Both in and outside of school, Justin tries to share whatever he learns with people he meets. Physics team this year has been one of his favorite activities to host. From the lasers to the cloud chamber, Justin learned as much as everyone else from the exciting club demos. And whether it is discussing (legally) USAPhO questions with friends from other states or playing online Science Bowl against Lexington High School, physics to Justin will always be so much more than just a subject of science.

Aside from his passion in physics, Justin is a foodie with many hot takes. He is always on the lookout for amazing boba tea, and loves to watch fancy people make fancy dishes. At home, Justin enjoys just printing out the ingredients list of recipes and figuring out the rest. Recently, his family also adopted two kittens that sleep constantly and pose for his camera. To destress at the end of the day, Justin enjoys listening to music and destroying his enemies at chess.

Justin would like to thank his family, friends, and mentors who have helped him so much along the way, and AAPT for offering such a wonderful opportunity at the University of Maryland.