

Several teams representing **Northbrook Middle School** recently earned **Highest Honors** in the **2019-2020 WordMasters Challenge™** – a national vocabulary competition involving nearly 125,000 students annually. The **6th grade team** scored an impressive 173 points out of a possible 200 in the last of three meets this year, placing **3rd in the nation**. In addition, the **8th grade team** scored 184 in the recent meet to place **6th nationwide**, and the **7th grade team** finished in **9th place** with 181 points.

The **6th graders also placed 4th nationally in the overall competition** with a cumulative score of 534 points out of a possible 600. Additionally, the **8th grade team** from Northbrook Middle School finished the year-long competition in **10th place** with a total score of 542 points.

Competing in the very difficult Gold Division of the **WordMasters Challenge™**, students at Northbrook Middle School who achieved outstanding results in the last meet of the year include sixth graders **Kyle Huang** and **Andrew Pickard**, seventh grader **Devin Raglin**, and eighth graders **Hakyung Chae**, **Lena Ho**, **Ishika Narsingani** and **Justin Vargas-Reyes**.

The students were coached in preparation for the **WordMasters Challenge™** by the following: 6th Grade = Sharon Black and Jamie Savoie; 7th Grade = Sheryl Croy and Jason McNeely; 8th Grade = Delbra Crenshaw and Stacie Humphreys.

The **WordMasters Challenge™** is an exercise in critical thinking that first encourages students to become familiar with a set of interesting new words (considerably harder than grade level), and then challenges them to use those

words to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. Working to solve the analogies helps students learn to think both analytically and metaphorically. Although most vocabulary enrichment and analogy-solving programs are designed for use by high school students, **WordMasters Challenge™** materials have been specifically created for younger students in grades three through eight. They are particularly well suited for children who are motivated by the challenge of learning new words and enjoy the logical puzzles posed by analogies.

The **WordMasters Challenge™** program is administered by a company based in New Jersey, which is dedicated to inspiring high achievement in American schools. Further information is available at the company's website:

<http://www.wordmasterschallenge.com>