

Pleasanton Unified School District



PRESS RELEASE
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AVHS Team National Finalists in Team America Rocketry Challenge

Pleasanton, California— At the beginning of the school year Brian Cheng a sophomore at AVHS and a member of the Amador Valley Engineering Academy approached teacher Tony Dennis about reviving the Aviation Club and along with Connor Chen, Chris Chi, and Eason Liu formed a team to compete in the Team America Rocketry Challenge.

Each team had to build rockets, not from a kit, and fly, collect data, and then modify their rockets to meet specific flight criteria for the competition. The team has flown repeatedly at Moffett Federal Airfield in Mountain View and at Snow Ranch in Farmington, CA with the support of the local rocket club, LUNAR.

The team completed their qualifying flights in January 2015 and of the nearly 700 teams from across the United States competed in TARC 2015 and the AVHS team emerged as one of the 100 best. The team has been invited to the **Team America Rocketry Challenge Final Fly-off at Great Meadow in The Plains, Virginia on Saturday, May 9, 2015 to compete for cash prizes of more than \$60,000 and the title of National Champion.** The trip will include a trip to the US Capital to share with Congress the importance of supporting STEM Education programs, followed by a one-day fly-off to compete for cash prizes and recognition.

The team thanks their parents who have been so very supportive and LUNAR, the local rocket club who has provided advice and guidance as well as witnessed and verified their qualification flights.

In preparation for the possibility of qualifying for the national fly-off the team has already been soliciting commitments of donations to support the trip. So far they have commitments for approximately \$1000 of the \$5000 they'll need to pay for the trip. Those interested in donating to their trip fund can do so by contacting Tony Dennis at tdennis@pleasantonusd.net.

Congrats to Brian, Connor, Chris, and Eason for their hard work and success!

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