

# It's Academic team wins first round

**Byrndon Cook** Staff Writer

On Saturday, October 13, Springbrook's It's Academic team returned for another filming of the "It's Academic" national competition. The team arrived at 9:30 a.m. to compete against Brentsville High School and Hayfield High School.

"It was a very close match. At one point we were losing, but we remained close behind," team sponsor Dr. Maura Ryan said.

The team was losing in the beginning, but they answered all of their questions correctly during the second team round. This helped the team win at the end of the game.

The It's Academic program has been a part of Springbrook for many years.

"It's more than just TV. It's a lot of work, but a lot of fun," Ryan said.

It takes a lot of preparation and work to participate in the competition. On average the group practices two or three times a week, learning a wide range of information such as countries and state capitols, presidents and historical dates.

The group also engages in mock-competitions, or scrimmages, with other schools for further preparation. On October 12, the team visited Paint Branch High School for one such scrimmages.

Subjects such as history, math and mythology have proven to be some of their strong areas.

There are two different groups within the team. One of the groups is the TV team, which appears on the show. Its members are juniors Michelle Chen and Liza Roisman, senior captain Steven Feister and junior alternate Jason Li.



Photo courtesy Liza Roisman

**Michelle Chen, Steven Feister and Liza Roisman represent Springbrook on It's Academic.**

This group meets from 7 a.m. to 7:20 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

"I really enjoy the team," Li said.

Chen, a transfer from Sherwood High School, has a lot of faith in the team.

"We're a pretty strong team. I think we did pretty well on Saturday," Chen said.

The team is also preparing for the Montgomery County Playoff Quarterfinals that are on March 8 of next year.

Springbrook also has one It's Academic club that meets two or three times a week to study

topics to help prepare for the competition. All Springbrook students are welcome to come to these meetings. They meet on Fridays, from 2:20-3:30 p.m. in F307. Ryan encourages more people, especially freshmen and sophomores, to come out to the meetings.

"It's fun, very competitive and makes you think. I'm hoping more people will come out and play," Ryan said, "You're welcome to come by and pick up a buzzer!"

The show will air on November 3 on NBC 4 at 10:30 a.m.

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**It's Academic takes home the gold.**

Check out the undefeated It's Academic team.

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