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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **High Peaks and High Averages for NUS High School**

1. The National University of Singapore High School of Mathematics & Science (NUSHS) is just into her fourth year of operation, but she's already making waves on the international scene.

2. This year, NUSHS students made up half or more of the three national teams representing Singapore at the 40<sup>th</sup> International Chemistry Olympiad, the 49<sup>th</sup> International Mathematical Olympiad and the 39<sup>th</sup> International Physics Olympiad.

3. Two NUSHS students even set a new record for Singapore when they clinched the First Award at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) 2008. The First Award in the Team Project Category is the highest award Singapore has achieved in all her years of taking part in the ISEF. This achievement is just the first of a number of accolades that the NUSHS students have garnered for the school and for the country this year, including seven Olympiad medals and a Special Award from *Sigma Xi*, the international honour society of science and engineering which counts among its members more than 200 Nobel Laureates.

#### **Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) 2008**

4. The ISEF was held in Atlanta, Georgia, United States from 11-16 May 2008. NUSHS students Zhao Ye and Zhai Weichao won the First Award in the Team Projects category and a Special Award from *Sigma Xi*. This achievement further affirms the school's vision of becoming the pinnacle of Math and Science education and research.

#### **40<sup>th</sup> International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO)**

5. The 40<sup>th</sup> IChO was held in Budapest, Hungary from 12 - 21 July 2008. Two out of the four students who represented Singapore were from NUS High School. The two students Foo Mei Hua Fiona and Lau Kang Ruey Gregory each received a Bronze medal.

#### **International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO)**

6. The 49<sup>th</sup> IMO was held in Madrid, Spain from 14 - 22 July 2008. Three out of six of the national team members were from NUS High School. The Singapore team received a total of one silver and three bronze medals. The silver medal and one of the bronze medals were clinched by NUSHS students Lei Lei and Lee Jun Dominic respectively.

#### **39<sup>th</sup> International Physics Olympiad (IPhO)**

7. The 39<sup>th</sup> IPhO was held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 20 - 29 July 2008. Out of the five students representing Singapore, three were from NUS High School. All three students received awards, with Zhao Ye and Lam Chee Yong Leslie winning silver medals and Zhai Weichao winning a bronze medal.

8. Zhao Ye and Weichao are examples of NUSHS students who have achieved high peaks of excellence on both the research front (see above on ISEF) as well as on the International Olympiad scene.

### **High Averages, not just Niche Peaks of Excellence, for NUS High School**

9. Their outstanding achievements at the above international competitions attest to the high peaks of excellence that NUSHS students can achieve. Beyond striving for niche peaks of excellence, the NUS High School also aims to achieve high averages amongst her students. The students' stellar performance in the Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations<sup>1</sup> is a case in point.

10. The AP Examinations are not compulsory nor do they serve as a terminal point of examination for students in NUS High School, but rather, serve as a baseline benchmark for NUS High School's curriculum. Nevertheless, the majority of the senior year students have taken the AP Exams and the high mean subject grades across the board (refer to Table 1) reflect the high averages that NUSHS students can deliver.

**Table 1. Mean Subject Grades of NUS High School**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Calculus AB	4.99	4.99
Calculus BC	5.00	5.00
Statistics	-	4.94
Chemistry	4.81	4.65
Biology	-	4.92
Physics B	5.00	4.98
Physics C (Mechanics)	-	5.00
Physics C (Elec. & Magnet)	-	5.00

11. Dr Hang Kim Hoo, Principal of NUS High School, expresses, "These are clear indicators that the school has successfully nurtured every student to their fullest potential. All students will attain their peaks of excellence based on their passion and talent while attaining a high average in other areas of their development."

### **About NUS High School of Mathematics and Science**

12. The National University of Singapore High School of Mathematics and Science is a specialised independent school that aims to cultivate and nurture whole individuals through its curriculum, co-curricula activities and enrichment programs. Its academic programme caters to the cognitive and affective needs of the best and brightest students in

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<sup>1</sup> The Advanced Placement Exams are administered by The College Board based in the US. The results from the different exams can be collated and used as the admission requirement for US colleges as well as UK and Australian universities. AP Exam grades are reported on a 5-point scale as follows:

- 5 Extremely well qualified
- 4 Well qualified
- 3 Qualified
- 2 Possibly qualified
- 1 No recommendation

Mathematics and the Sciences. The school offers a six-year programme that follows a broad-based curriculum where innovative and interesting teaching methods are used and classes are held in technologically rich rooms. Emphasis is given towards higher level cognitive and learning skills, such as critical thinking, independent learning, problem solving, formal writing, research and development. Graduating students are awarded the NUS High School Diploma.

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