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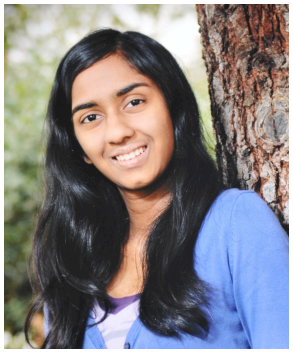
National Winner



RAMYA RANGAN

Total AP Exams Taken to Date: 17
Favorite AP Class: AP Physics C
What sparked her interest in science & math? "Initially, my interest in math was simply motivated by a need to succeed in competitions. Once I entered middle school, however, I began to see math for what it was: a beautiful development of logic at its finest."

Ramya Rangan's interest in math and science originated over a decade ago when she began completing Kumon math problem sets. In high school, she found that other sciences posed similarly intriguing problems. She took her first AP class – AP Calculus BC – in the eighth grade. "AP courses gave me a chance to acquire more in-depth knowledge of various fields, and to learn with gifted peers from incredible teachers."

A senior at The Harker School in San Jose, California, Ramya considers AP Physics C her favorite AP class to date, because it exposed her to interesting physics problems and gave her experience with lab work. "The lessons I learned on topics like data analysis and scientific writing have been incredibly useful in research work, and I'm sure they will continue to be useful throughout my life." She is currently taking AP Music Theory, AP Psychology and AP English Literature.

Ramya plans to study computer science in college, having learned through AP Computer Science that algorithmic thinking appeals to her. Likewise, she learned of bioinformatics through AP Biology. Now, when choosing potential college majors, she is drawn to this exciting interdisciplinary field that uses computer science in biological applications.

Ramya was a semifinalist in the 2011 Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology for research she conducted at the Research Science Institute. An accomplished pianist, she participated in the 2010 California State Panel honors recital for piano. In 2009, Ramya traveled to China representing the US with seven other girls at the China Girls' Math Olympiad, where she won a bronze medal. She aspires to a career in scientific research, possibly in the field of bioinformatics.