

U.S. Wins Math Olympiad for 1st Time in 21 years!!!

David Kristofferson from **The Highlands** · 14 Feb

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<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/arch...>

This article is also in the latest Atlantic magazine. I was going to wait until my article on elementary/middle school education to comment on it, but thought it might be better to call attention to it separately.

In a nutshell, the gains in math education are being made through the private sector and benefitting more well-to-do kids. As often happens, attempts at "equity" can backfire and end up hurting the public schools by leaving them with the lower income students; note my previous citation from the NY Times that the number of public school students qualifying for subsidized lunches exceeded 50% for the first time early last year.

I'm not sure if the 6th grade math test that Anne did not like is such an attempt to discourage acceleration by making the test very difficult; I have not been directly involved in those issues.

Anne mentioned previously that she tells her kids, "we don't live in a "Care Bear" world" which is definitely true. Public school attempts at "equity" sometimes seem to be striving for that goal. Humans do have the capacity to mold their environment. The trick is finding the right balance. We do not want to make life "nasty, brutish, and short" either (a cultural quiz for those who concentrate only on STEM - using the Internet to answer is not allowed)!