

## **Austin High Swimming District Championship Press Release**

On Friday, January 27, the Austin High Swimming and Diving teams competed in their UIL District Championship meet at the Round Rock ISD Natatorium. The boys finished in 6th place overall, and the girls finished in 7th place.

“This was already a fast district,” said AHS head coach Ryan Goodwyn, “and with last year’s realignment throwing Dripping Springs in the mix, it got even faster. We’re among one of the fastest, hardest districts in the state. I would love to see us move up in the team standings, but I’m proud of how well we swam today. We had 54 individual swims, and 33 of those were lifetime best swims. That means 61% of our swims were kids going faster than they ever have. And a few of those that weren’t were guys who are saving their full rest and taper for Regionals. So while I’d love to see us placing higher, I couldn’t be more proud of the way our kids swam today.”

On the girls’ side, freshman Megan O’Leary moved up from 10th to 5th place in the girls’ 100 yard butterfly. That swim qualified her for the Regional Championships. “That was a fun swim to watch,” Goodwyn said. “It was definitely the swim of the meet for the girls. She dropped over three seconds and surprised a lot of people, including herself, with that race. She’s a freshman who is now less than two seconds away from our school record. I can’t wait to see what the next three years hold for her.”

On the boys’ side the Maroons were lead by senior captains Ryan O’Leary and Lawson Thomas. “Those two have been a huge part of our team culture over the last four years, which have also been my first four years as the head coach here,” said Goodwyn. “Their buy-in and leadership has been invaluable to our team building the culture I wanted coming in. They’re two best friends who push each other in all the right ways, and the rest of the guys follow that lead.”

Thomas’ swim in the 200 I.M. broke O’Leary’s school record from last year, while O’Leary chose to focus on the 200 free instead this year. Both swimmers qualified for regionals in both their individual events and two school relays.

In total, the Maroons qualified 15 swimmers for the Regional Championships being held next week in San Antonio. The following athletes placed in the top 6 in one or more event and will be advancing:

**Megan O’Leary (FR)** – 100 butterfly and 400 freestyle relay

**Sora Jenkins (SO)** – 200 freestyle relay and 400 freestyle relay

**Charlotte Gottsman (JR)** – 200 freestyle relay

**Maddie Griebel (SO)** – 200 freestyle relay

**Mia Corbin (FR)** – 200 freestyle relay

**Josi Avila (JR)** – 400 freestyle relay

**Eve Gottsman (SR)** – 400 freestyle relay

**Lawson Thomas (SR)** – 200 medley relay, 200 individual medley, 400 freestyle relay, 100 backstroke

**Ryan O’Leary (SR)** – 200 medley relay, 200 freestyle, 400 freestyle relay, 100 breaststroke

**Sam Miller (SR)** – 200 medley relay, 200 freestyle relay, 400 freestyle relay

**Evan Smith (FR)** – 200 medley relay, 400 freestyle relay

**Liam Cruser (FR)** – 1m springboard diving

**Kelly Murphy (SO)** – 200 freestyle relay

**Sam Dominguez (FR)** – 200 freestyle relay

**Kole Esselstyn (SO)** – 200 freestyle relay