

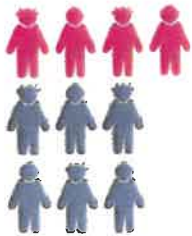
The MATHCOUNTS Competition Series in a Nutshell

The **MATHCOUNTS Competition Series** is a national program that provides students the opportunity to compete in live, in-person math contests against and alongside their peers. Created in 1983, it is the longest-running MATHCOUNTS program and is open to all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students.

HOW DOES IT WORK? The Competition Series has 4 levels of competition—school, chapter, state and national. Here's what a typical program year looks like.



Schools register in the fall and work with students during the year. Coaches administer the **School Competition, usually in January.** Any number of students from your school can participate in your team meetings and compete in the School Competition. MATHCOUNTS provides the School Competition to coaches in November. Many coaches use this to determine which student(s) will advance to the Chapter Competition.



Between 1 and 10 students from each school advance to the local **Chapter Competition, which takes place in February.** Each school can send a team of 4 students plus up to 6 individual competitors. All chapter competitors—whether they are team members or individuals—participate in the individual rounds of the competition; then just the 4 team members participate in the team round. Schools also can opt to send just a few individual competitors, rather than forming a full team. Over 500 Chapter Competitions take place across the country.



Top students from each Chapter Competition advance to their **State Competition, which takes place in March.** Your school's registration fees cover your students as far as they get in the Competition Series. If your students make it to one of the 56 State Competitions, no additional fees are required.



Top 4 individual competitors from each State Competition receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the **National Competition, which takes place in May.** These 224 students combine to form 4-person state teams, while also competing individually for the title of National Champion.

MATHCOUNTS meetings will occur on Mondays from 3:30-4:30 in the Upper School Conference Room, beginning October 29, 2018. Homework may be assigned for practice.

WHAT DOES THE TEST LOOK LIKE? Every MATHCOUNTS competition consists of 4 rounds—Sprint, Target, Team and Countdown Round. Altogether the rounds are designed to take about 3 hours to complete. Here's what each round looks like.



Sprint Round

40 minutes
30 problems total
no calculators used
focus on speed and accuracy



Target Round

Approx. 30 minutes
8 problems total
calculators used
focus on problem-solving and mathematical reasoning

The problems are given to students in 4 pairs. Students have 6 minutes to complete each pair.



Team Round

20 minutes
10 problems total
calculators used
focus on problem-solving and collaboration

Only the 4 students on a school's team can take this round officially.



Countdown Round

Maximum of 45 seconds per problem
no calculators used
focus on speed and accuracy

Students with highest scores on Sprint and Target Rounds compete head-to-head. This round is optional at the school, chapter and state level.

Interested in participating?

All you need is the [interest form](#) and a [recommendation from a teacher](#) from this year or last year about your work ethic. Please return this sheet to Mrs. Cohen by October 26.

Interest Form

I, _____, would like to participate in MATHCOUNTS.
student name

My teacher recommendation (below) is from _____.
teacher name

Teacher Recommendation

Teachers: please write a *brief* recommendation for the interested students regarding their work ethic. This isn't about math ability, but about how much effort they put into learning and practicing math.

I recommend _____ to be able to participate in
MATHCOUNTS.

This student: (please check all that apply)

- participates in class
- stays focused in class
- completes classwork
- completes homework

Comments:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

