

MATHCOUNTS - 7th and 8th Graders

MATHCOUNTS is a national program for middle school students which allows students to engage in challenging mathematics in a fun, no pressure atmosphere. It all begins at the school level with all interested students. It culminates with a series of competitions—school, state, and national. The school competition takes place in December. Our local competition will take place in February, and we will send a team of four students as well as six individual competitors. It is not necessary to take part in that competition, however, to gain something of value from the MATHCOUNTS program. There is no limit on the number of students who can participate in the coaching and preparation sessions at the school level. I strongly encourage students who are interested in challenging and improving their math skills to participate even if they are not planning to compete. Students may participate at any level they wish. They can come to every meeting and work on every problem or come occasionally and work on the problems they choose. Obviously the more they participate, the more they will benefit. Participation, along with the results of the school competition, will be considered in choosing who will compete.

Our MATHCOUNTS program at St. Eugene will begin **Thursday, September 20**. This first session will be for seventh graders only. Beginning September 27, all seventh and eighth graders are invited to participate. Our meeting time will be every Thursday afternoon from 3:10 to 4:30. During these times we will be learning concepts, discussing problem solving strategies, and working on problems both as individuals and in groups.

Each week students will be given a set of problems to work on for the next meeting. They should not feel like they have to complete each problem but it would be great if they would try every problem. Parents and friends are welcome to work together on problems. If a student misses a meeting, I would still encourage him/her to turn in the problems worked on and get the next set of problems.

I cannot say enough about the value of this experience. In my experience as a parent and a coach, I have seen MathCounts make an incredible difference in students' confidence, ability and enthusiasm for math. The only requirement is a positive attitude and a willingness to focus on math. I would ask parents to encourage but not force their child to participate. Please let me know if your child plans to participate by returning the slip below. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sharon Webster
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Yes, I'd love to participate in MathCounts.

Name _____

_____ I would love to bring a treat for a MathCounts, knowing that food is essential for brain work.
(I will make a snack schedule and send it to all)