

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

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YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Twenty-three junior high schools from throughout the area will send teams to this year's MATHCOUNTS competition at Youngstown State University on Friday, Feb. 15, at Kilcawley Center on campus.

Each team will be made up of four, 7th or 8th grade students. The competition features team and individual events. The afternoon competition will follow a game show format with school teams racing against the clock to answer math questions. The questions will include topics such as probability, statistics, linear algebra, and polynomials.

The winning individuals and teams will receive trophies and the top team will advance to the state finals in Columbus. A state championship team will be selected for the national competition.

Awards will be presented at the annual Mahoning Valley Society of Professional Engineers (MVSPE) dinner observing Engineers' Week at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 19, at Kilcawley Center. MVSPE is the local sponsor of the event. Major funding for the state of Ohio is provided by SOHIO. Local funding to support the contest is also being sought.

MATHCOUNTS is a nationwide program designed to combat the problem of declining math skills among students at the precollege level. National sponsors are the National Society of Professional Engineers, the CNA Insurance Companies, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the Department of Education, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

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Prof. Jack Ritter of Boardman, associate professor of Civil Engineering, is coordinator of the program.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Results will be announced and winning teams and top individual winners will be available at 2 p.m. Feb. 15, the day of competition, in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center. Prof. Ritter and Dr. Richard Mirth will be there with the results and the names to help reporters/photographers.

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Schools registering for the competition include:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>COACH</u>
Austintown Middle	Steve Melek
Brookfield Jr. High	D.J. DeJulia
Champion Jr. High	Mary Alice Grace
Crestview Middle	Mrs. J. Migliore
East Jr. High (Warren)	Eleanor Fairbanks
Farmington Local	Gerry Dines
W.S. Guy (Liberty)	Kathy Rotar
Hayes Jr. High (Yo.)	Rosemary Sicafuse
Maplewood High	Pam Lubich
McDonald High	Neal McCracken
Poland Jr. High	Mary Jane Twells
Reed Middle (Hubbard)	Andrew Alberico
St. Dominic (Yo.)	Kathleen Kinney
St. Luke (Boardman)	Stephanie Anthony
St. Matthias (Yo.)	Sister Ottilia
St. Nicholas (Struthers)	Mrs. Agnes Ginnetti
St. Patrick (Yo.)	JoAnn Smyczynski
South Middle (Columbiana)	Maryellen Prest
Springfield Intermediate	Harold Kelley
H.B. Turner Jr. High (Warren)	Robert Lloyd
United (Hanoverton)	Greg Johnson
West Jr. High (Warren)	Nedia Bowen
Warren Christian School	John Astolfi