

Alabama Students Vie for MATHCOUNTS Championships

For the second year in a row, a team of four mathletes from Louis Pizitz Middle School won the Alabama state MATHCOUNTS competition held Saturday, March 28th at Berry Middle School. The top five schools were as follows:

School	Place
Louis Pizitz Middle School	1 st
Challenger Middle School	2 nd
Auburn Junior High School	3 rd
Randolph School	4 th
Baldwin Arts and Academic Magnet School	5 th

Nancy Chilton is the coach of the Pizitz Middle School team while consisted of team members Tony Zeng, Botong Ma, Gene Yu, and Farhan Khan.

Each of nearly 70 mathletes took two rounds of written examination to determine the top individuals. The top 4 students make up the Alabama MATHCOUNTS team which will compete against other states and U.S. regions at the National MATHCOUNTS competition in Orlando Florida in early May. These students are

Student	Place	School
Tony Zeng	1 st	Louis Pizitz Middle School
John Yoon	2 nd	Auburn Junior High School
Asutosh Nanda	3 rd	Challenger Middle School
Ricky Jang	4 th	Baldwin Arts and Academic Magnet School

The team will be coached by Auburn Junior High School athletic coach Tabitha Geiger, who is excited to make her first trip to the national competition. Tony Zeng won first place two years in a row, a rare feat in such a competitive competition. Meanwhile, Asutosh Nanda is the second member of the Nanda family to make the state team in the last two years. Also, Ricky Jang became the first 6th grader to ever make the Alabama team in a competition traditionally dominated by older students who have spent two to three years developing their problem solving skills through MATHCOUNTS.

The competition concluded with an unofficial Count Down Round in which the top 12 students competed in a bracket-style format answering math problems with amazing speed. The winner of the 2009 Alabama Count Down Round was Kevin Yang from Berry Middle School.

The Alabama MATHCOUNTS competition is put on annually by the Alabama Society of Professional Engineers (ASPE) and was hosted this year by MATHCOUNTS alumnus Mathew Crawford. Mathletes prepare for the MATHCOUNTS competition using materials provided free of charge by the MATHCOUNTS Foundation to all middle schools across the country. While half a million students prepare using these materials annually, tens of thousands compete in that local, state, or national level of MATHCOUNTS nationwide.