

Math Student Achieves Highest Pre-Algebra 6 Individual Score



Minsuk Kang earned first place at the Broward County Council of Teachers and Mathematics (BCCTM) competition, outscoring 109 6th grade students. Rhys Murray placed second out of the 80 7th grade participants for Algebra 1, and Jan Lin earned an honorable mention for scoring in the Top 10 for Algebra 1.

Twenty-four University School Middle School students earned a spot at the competition based on the results of a qualifying exam. In addition to individual events, six teams of four competed in various levels of pre-algebra, algebra and geometry.

USchool's 7th grade algebra team captured second place, and the 6th grade pre-algebra team placed third. Twenty-five schools throughout Broward County competed in the competition that ends at the county level.

The qualifying exam duplicates the actual testing during the competition. Besides realistic competition simulations, USchool math teacher Lisa Samuels says there really is no way to study in advance for the exam because of the wide range of topics.

Once the teams are established, members meet weekly to practice team competition solutions based on prior years question pools. In addition, the members must practice individually using past exams.

The Middle School students who compete not only develop sharp mental skills, but they also learn to work collaboratively, build upon each other's strengths and work under tight time deadlines.

"We are proud of all of our participants, who practiced and worked so hard," Samuels added.

LOWER SCHOOL RESULTS

Lower school math students also participate in the BCCTM competition starting in 4th grade. This year, the 5th grade team placed second in the team category for the South area, and the 4th grade team placed second overall for the South area.