

## Students from New Haven's Middle Schools to Show Their Math Prowess in Yale Competition

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**New Haven, Conn.** — MATHCOUNTS® Outreach: a Yale Undergraduate Organization will hold its third annual competition for students from 25 New Haven Public Schools (NHPS) on May 1.

Members of the media are welcome to cover the lively Countdown Round, beginning at 2:00 p.m. in Davies Auditorium, Becton Center, 15 Prospect St.

The competition caps months of hard work on the part of 250 New Haven and West Haven middle school students who have been flexing their mathematical muscles under the guidance of 45 Yale student coaches. Throughout the year, Yale students have gone into New Haven and West Haven public middle schools every week to help youngsters build their problem-solving skills and develop an interest in math.

The competition will consist of several written components that challenge individual students and teams to solve complex, multi-step problems with and without the aid of a calculator. The top students will then participate in the Countdown Round, a fast-paced, one-on-one oral competition similar to "Jeopardy," which begins at 2:00 p.m. At the 3:30 p.m. closing ceremony, Dr. Reginald Mayo, NHPS Superintendent of Schools, will present student competitors with awards.

The competition is co-sponsored by MATHCOUNTS Outreach and Yale's Office of New Haven and State Affairs.

MATHCOUNTS Outreach was formed in 2006 by MATHCOUNTS alumni and other Yale students interested in volunteering in the community. "My own middle school MATHCOUNTS experience inspired a lifelong interest in math, and I became motivated to start MATHCOUNTS Outreach when I found out that no New Haven Public Schools participated in MATHCOUNTS. In just three years, participation in MATHCOUNTS has expanded to nearly all NHPS middle schools, as well as other schools in the New Haven area," said Brian Edwards, the program's founder and a member of the MATHCOUNTS Foundation national staff.

MATHCOUNTS Outreach is a collaboration involving Yale undergraduates, the NHPS math department, and the MATHCOUNTS Foundation. Yale student coaches work alongside NHPS math teachers to coordinate and run practice sessions. "MATHCOUNTS Outreach uses the energy and enthusiasm of Yale students to provide a fun, enriching environment for middle-school students, sparking an interest in problem solving and mathematics," said Ari Berlin, MATHCOUNTS Outreach co-president.

The mission of the MATHCOUNTS Foundation is to inspire excellence, confidence and curiosity in U.S. middle school students through fun and challenging math programs. The MATHCOUNTS Foundation provides guidance and resources for this first-of-its-kind effort to reach out to urban public school students, get them excited about math, raise their test scores and provide them with role models.

Each year, the MATHCOUNTS Foundation creates an entirely new *MATHCOUNTS School Handbook* and provides a complimentary copy to every U.S. middle school. Focused on problem solving, analytical thinking, reasoning and teamwork, these 300 math problems meet National Council of Teachers of Mathematics standards for grades 6–8.

Additional information is available online at the MATHCOUNTS web site, [www.mathcounts.org](http://www.mathcounts.org), and at the MATHCOUNTS Outreach web site, [www.mathcountsoutreach.org](http://www.mathcountsoutreach.org).