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**Who can join?**

The MathCounts Competition Series Club is open to all students at Northstar. It is designed for students who have a passion for mathematics or are interested in exploring the exciting world of math competitions. The club will be led by Miranda Stowell, our Math Instructional Coach, educator, and math enthusiast with a strong background in mathematics education.

**What is MathCounts?**

MathCounts is a national middle school mathematics competition that aims to develop problem-solving skills, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts. Our club will prepare students for the MathCounts competition series, which includes four levels of competition:

1. **School Competition –** There will hopefully be three School Competitions this school year with one occurring at each of the three middle schools in ECASD. Only ECASD students participate in this level of competition. All students who are on our Northstar team are eligible to attend all school competitions. We will fill teams of 6th grade, 7th grade, 8th grade, Algebra and Geometry.
2. **Chapter Competition –** This competition includes participants from various middle schools in our area, including but not limited to Altoona, Menomonie, Chippewa Falls, Hudson, River Falls, Rice Lake, etc. We can only take the top 12 students from our Northstar team. Those who attend more meetings and School Competitions are more likely to get chosen for the Chapter Competition.
3. **State Competition –** An individual or team may qualify for this level of competition at the Chapter Competition. The last time Northstar had a student go to State for MathCounts was in 2020. The State Competition usually takes place in March.
4. **National Competition**. An individual or team may qualify for this level of competition at the State Competition. The National Competition usually takes place in May.

These contests cover a wide range of mathematical topics and provide an opportunity for students to showcase their abilities. Mathcounts competitions involve students taking a team test and an individual test. Top competitors will compete in the Countdown Round where students compete for top Mathlete by buzzing in their answers to various math questions. Mathcounts is not much of a spectator sport, but parents are welcome to come to watch the Countdown Round at the Chapter Competition. A schedule will be sent home sometime in January for the Chapter Competition. Competitions occur during the school day, so students need to communicate with their teachers about their absence. Students can participate in both sports and Mathcounts since the competitions will not interfere with sports events. If a student is attending a Mathcounts competition and needs to make it back for a sporting event we can make arrangements to get them back to Northstar on time.

**When is MathCounts?**

The MathCounts Competition Series Club will meet weekly on Fridays in room 855 at Northstar. To help accommodate student’s busy schedules three different meeting times are offered every Friday from November 10th through January 26th: Morning (6:55-7:25 am), Resource (during their grade level Resource time), After School (3:00-3:30 pm). Students only need to attend one of the meeting times offered each Friday and can switch up which time they would like to attend to best fit their schedule. Detailed meeting and competition dates (and times) are noted on the backside. Snacks will be provided at all weekly meetings 😊

**Why participate in MathCounts?**

Participating in the MathCounts Competition Series Club offers numerous benefits for our students. It helps develop strong problem-solving skills, enhances logical and analytical thinking, and fosters a deeper appreciation for mathematics. Moreover, Mathcounts is a prestigious national competition that can open doors to academic scholarships and recognition for our students. Through the club, our students will have the opportunity to form long lasting friendships with fellow math enthusiasts, learn from dedicated educators, and gain valuable experiences for their future academic and career pursuits.

**Important Upcoming Dates:** Students only need to attend **one** of the weekly meeting times on Fridays. The same material will be covered at all three meeting.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Reason** | **Time(s)** |
| Friday, November 10 | Weekly Club Meeting | Morning: 6:55 – 7:25 am  Resource Time  After School: 3:00 – 3:30 pm |
| Friday, November 17 | Weekly Club Meeting | Morning: 6:55 – 7:25 am  Resource Time  After School: 3:00 – 3:30 pm |
| Friday, December 1 | Weekly Club Meeting | Morning: 6:55 – 7:25 am  Resource Time  After School: 3:00 – 3:30 pm |
| **Tuesday, December 5** | **School Competition at Delong** | **During School Day: 9am -2 pm** |
| Friday, December 8 | Weekly Club Meeting | Morning: 6:55 – 7:25 am  Resource Time  After School: 3:00 – 3:30 pm |
| Friday, December 15 | Weekly Club Meeting | Morning: 6:55 – 7:25 am  Resource Time  After School: 3:00 – 3:30 pm |
| Friday, December 22 | Weekly Club Meeting | Morning: 6:55 – 7:25 am  Resource Time  **No After School Meeting** |
| Friday, January 5 | Weekly Club Meeting | Morning: 6:55 – 7:25 am  Resource Time  After School: 3:00 – 3:30 pm |
| Friday, January 12 | Weekly Club Meeting | Morning: 6:55 – 7:25 am  Resource Time  After School: 3:00 – 3:30 pm |
| Friday, January 19 | Weekly Club Meeting | Morning: 6:55 – 7:25 am  Resource Time  After School: 3:00 – 3:30 pm |
| Friday, January 26 | Weekly Club Meeting | Morning: 6:55 – 7:25 am  Resource Time  After School: 3:00 – 3:30 pm |
| **Thursday, February 1** | **Chapter Competition at Delong** | **During School Day: Exact Time TBD** |

**Northstar and South Middle School Competitions dates are still being determined. Both competitions will likely occur in January.**

Students must have a permission slip (on the attached page) on file to be a part of the MathCounts team. If you have any questions or concerns at any time about Mathcounts please stop by Mrs. Stowell’s office located in room 755. Parents can either email or call with any questions or concerns. I’m looking forward to a great season and having a fun, memorable year!



**Miranda Stowell**

MathCounts Coach/Math 7 Teacher

Math Instructional Coach/Polar Club Advisor

715-852-5169

[mstowell@ecasd.us](mailto:mstowell@ecasd.us)

MathCounts Team Permission Slip 2023-24

I have read the introduction letter for MathCounts and give permission for my child, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (please clearly print your child’s first and last name), to be a part of Northstar’s MathCounts Team and participate in MathCounts meetings on Fridays. I will provide transportation for my child to either get to school early or to get home at the end of the day, depending on which meeting time my child attends.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*A separate permission slip will be sent home for each individual competition giving details of that specific competition. Competitions occur during the school day, so students will need a permission slip for each competition on file stating that they have permission to miss their classes to attend the competition. This is just a general permission slip stating that you are allowing your child to join the team and attend our weekly meetings.

I have read the MathCounts introduction letter and agree to be a part of Northstar’s MathCounts Team. I understand that I must do my best to attend one of the meeting times offered on Fridays in order to be eligible to participate in the MathCounts competitions.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this permission slip to Mrs. Stowell (Room #755) or Ms. Schilling in the Northstar Student Services office.