

Winburn's wins "add up" at local MathCounts contests

A team of "mathletes" from Winburn Middle School took first place among 20 area schools competing in the local MathCounts contest. Winburn's Valerie Sarge was the top-scoring student in the problem-solving competition and winner of the \$500 Kentucky MathCounts scholarship, and Vania Ma earned top honors in the quick-recall portion.

These three teams will advance to the state contest, set for March 28 at the Holiday Inn-North:

1st: Winburn Middle School – Valerie Sarge, Vania Ma, Matthew Wu and Melanie Schmocker (coached by Devin Onkst and Xin Ma)

2nd: Lexington Traditional Magnet School – Jessie Li, Hank Russell, Eric Xiong and Will Walters (coached by Keith Durham)

3rd: SCAPA Bluegrass – Leia Wedlund, Casey Ren, Maeve Draper and Joseph Natter (coached by Pam Draper)

Other individual competitors moving on to the state level include Elaine Lin of Beaumont Middle School, Victoria Zachman, Emily Li and Hussain Siddiqi of Lexington Traditional Magnet School, Barret Block and Robin Lohe of Edythe J. Hayes Middle School, Nelson Ng of Bryan Station Middle School, and Rui Sun of Morton Middle School.

At the state competition, the top four finishers will be offered full-tuition, four-year scholarships to the University of Kentucky or the University of Louisville. These individuals also will advance to the national competition in May at Walt Disney World.

Students who place 5th through 10th at the state level will receive an annual tuition scholarship of \$1,500 per year to either UK or U of L.

More than 150 mathletes competed Feb. 28 in the local contest, sponsored by the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers' Bluegrass chapter. The fourth and fifth-place teams were from Beaumont and Bryan Station middle schools, respectively.

MathCounts is a nationwide program designed to improve math skills among middle school students, who are at a crucial stage in developing and sustaining math interest and ability. For more information, contact state coordinator [Marcie Fisher](#) or [Natalee Feese](#) in Fayette County Public Schools.