



# WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM CHAPTER

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## Local Student "Mathletes" Compete in Math Competition

(Pleasantville, NY, February 3, 2007) -- Teams of 6th, 7th and 8th grade student Mathletes from 17 area middle schools competed in the Westchester and Putnam County competition of the national MATHCOUNTS program on February 3, 2007, at Pace University's Pleasantville Campus. The MATHCOUNTS local competition is organized and sponsored annually by the Westchester/Putnam Chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers as a part of National Engineering Month.

Teachers and students prepared for this competition since the beginning of this school year. Students competed individually and on teams in written and fast-paced oral matches. Subjects included algebra, probability, statistics and geometry.

Among the 120 Mathletes competing in the event, the top individual is Brett Fischler from the Ardsley Middle School. Brett amassed the highest score in the Sprint and Target Rounds. Other individual winners included 2nd Place - Kazuki Nakatani (Ardsley MS) and 3rd Place - Jacob Lynch (Albert Leonard MS, New Rochelle). Also, before more than 200 spectators, Benno Stein (Rye MS) emerged victorious in the round-robin Countdown Round.

Ardsley Middle School, led by coach Linda Nappi, placed first in the team competition. Members of the winning team are Josh Berlowitz, Brett Fischler, Daniel Herman, and Kazuki Nakatani. The second and third place teams are the Rye Middle School and Scarsdale Middle School.

The top three teams and top two individuals from the local competition will advance to the 2007 New York State MATHCOUNTS competition to be held on March 10, 2007 at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. The top four individuals from the State Competition will represent New York at the Lockheed Martin MATHCOUNTS National Competition in Fort Worth, TX, on May 11.

In his closing remarks, Victor Carosi, P.E., President of the Westchester/Putnam Chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers, remarked, "We are proud of all the students and coaches for their

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accomplishments in the MATHCOUNTS program. They have trained hard, and we wish today's winners the best at the State competition.”

MATHCOUNTS is a national program designed to improve math skills among U.S. students. The program focuses on middle school students, who are at a crucial stage in developing and sustaining math interest and ability. Students who do not begin developing strong problem-solving, logical thinking and analytical abilities in middle school will face an uphill battle later in life if they wish to pursue a medical, scientific, mathematical, engineering or technical career.

