



Dear Parent or Guardian:

On November 15, 2016 your child will participate in the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual American Mathematics Competitions 8 (AMC 8) being offered in your school. The AMC 8 is the nation's leading mathematics competition for middle schoolers and is designed to cultivate the mathematical capabilities of the next generation of problem solvers. In 2015, approximately 150,000 students worldwide participated in the AMC 8.

Students who take the AMC 8 have the opportunity to develop creative quantitative thinking skills, which better prepares them to succeed in high school math classes. Furthermore, mathematics drives the innovations that shape our society and is useful in a broad range of careers, even those that are not traditionally mathematical, scientific or technological in nature. By offering these competitions the Mathematical Association of America aims to challenge and inspire students to become lifelong learners of mathematics.

After the competition results are compiled, certificates will be presented to the student with the highest score in each school, to nationally high-scoring students, and to all who participated in the competition. But the real rewards come from challenging each student with mathematics that is new, different, and "outside the box." Competition problems are more difficult than those encountered routinely in math courses, but they are designed to connect to middle school mathematics standards to ensure they are within the reach of students. The measure of success of the competition is not the number of problems solved, but is the level of engagement with mathematics that arises from the intellectual challenge of the problem-solving process.

I hope your student enjoys the competition and continues down the path to a lifetime of success with, and love of, mathematics.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug E. Ensley".

Doug Ensley, Ph.D.  
Interim Director, MAA American Mathematics Competitions