

## Frost MathCounts 2020/21

*What is MathCounts?* The MATHCOUNTS Competition Series is the only competition program of its kind, with live, in-person events in all 50 states, as well as U.S. territories and schools worldwide through the U.S. Department of Defense and State Department. The Competition Series is ideal for students who have a talent and passion for math who need to be challenged. Students will engage in exciting “bee-style” contests in which they will compete against and alongside other bright, motivated students.

The Competition Series typically has 4 levels of competition - school, chapter, state and national. However, this year the 2020-2021 Competition Series will have 4 levels of *official* competition—chapter, chapter invitational, state and national—and 4 *unofficial* online practice competitions. The competition is comprised of 4 rounds—Sprint, Target, Team and Countdown Round. However, Team and Countdown Rounds will not be conducted officially in the 2020-2021 Competition Series until the national level. Here's what each round looks like:

- **Sprint Round:** focuses on speed and accuracy. Students have 40 minutes to complete 30 math problems without a calculator.
- **Target Round:** focuses on problem-solving and mathematical reasoning. Students receive 4 pairs of problems and have 6 minutes to complete each pair, assuming the use of a calculator.
- **Team Round:** focuses on problem-solving and collaboration. Students have 20 minutes to complete 10 math problems, assuming the use of a calculator. *Only the 4 students on a school's team can take this round officially. National level only for 2020-2021. The online practice competitions will have team rounds.*
- **Countdown Round:** focuses on speed and accuracy. Students have a maximum of 45 seconds per problem without a calculator. *This round is optional at the school, chapter and state level. National level only for 2020-2021.*

Frost will select 50 students only, by lottery, to take the 3 online practice competitions. You need to complete all 3 online practice competitions during the time period we specify to be considered for the team Frost will then evaluate those students and choose 15 to represent Frost on the school team who will then advance to the Chapter competition on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> – Feb 6<sup>th</sup> with an opportunity to progress further depending on their scores. We plan to notify the chosen students before winter break.

*How can I sign up?* Join our Math Counts Google classroom at “rjctx35”. Look over and try the Practice Problem Set 1 and check your answers. Indicate your interest by completing the google form found in Classwork in the google classroom by Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>.

*How do I know if I am selected by the lottery for the practice competitions?* We will email you by Friday Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> regarding selection and tell you whether or not you were chosen by lottery. Lottery selectees should attend a google meet meeting on Monday, Oct 19<sup>th</sup> at 11-11:30 am or 2:00 -2:30 pm for further information and an opportunity to ask questions.

For the 50 selectees, we plan to have optional afterschool MathCounts practice time on select Thursdays, from 2:30 – 4:00 beginning Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, to meeting via BBCU Collaborate and have practice sessions and breakout groups to collaborate on problem solving skills and strategies. A schedule will be forthcoming.

*What happens after I take the 3 practice tests?* We will choose the actual 15 members of the competition team mid-January, following the final practice test.

*Who can I contact for more information:* Mrs. Beach, [jmbeach@fcps.edu](mailto:jmbeach@fcps.edu); Mrs. Thomas, [jlthomas@fcps.edu](mailto:jlthomas@fcps.edu)

**\*\*\*Please note: MathCounts does not allow accommodations for extended time or the use of a calculator during Sprint Round\*\*\***