



Dear Parent or Guardian:

This January, your child will participate in the 42nd annual American Mathematics Competitions (AMC) 8 being offered at your school. The AMC 8 is the nation's leading mathematics competition for middle school students and is designed to cultivate the mathematical capabilities of the next generation of problem-solvers.

Students who take the AMC 8 have the opportunity to develop creative quantitative thinking skills that better prepare 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 (MAA) aims to challenge and inspire students to become lifelong learners of mathematics.

The AMC 8 challenges each student with mathematics that is new, different, and "outside the box." Competition problems are more complex 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 in the competition is not the number of problems solved but the level of engagement with the 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen M. Bliss". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Bliss, PhD
Director of Competitions
MAA American Mathematics Competitions