



# ARCATA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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3/13/19

## ANOTHER MATHCOUNTS WIN FOR SUNNY BRAE MIDDLE SCHOOL



*Back Row:* Noah Smith, Owen Peterson, Lillian Afridi, Maxx Crow, Kai Frimodig  
*Front Row:* Amy Taylor (teacher/coach), Paolo Bosques-Paulet, Jennifer Haggerty, Bliss Mandala, Solana Mendle-Nickle

Sunny Brae Middle School is proud to announce that their student Mathletes® won the Eureka Chapter MATHCOUNTS competition on February 2, 2019. The members of the winning team were Paolo Bosques-Paulet, Maxx Crow, Bliss Mandala, and Noah Smith, supported by their coach, math teacher Amy Taylor. The team will now advance to the State Competition at Stanford University on March 23. Coach Taylor presented the team to the Arcata School District Board of Trustees at their meeting on March 11, full of praise for the students and enthusiasm for the competition. School Principal Becky MacQuarrie expressed appreciation for Coach Taylor's MATHCOUNTS elective at the middle school, which offers students problem solving, logical thinking, and analytical skills while fostering positive attitudes about math. Sunny Brae also won the regional team competition in 2018, and two students placed in the overall top four competitors in 2017. Under Coach Taylor's direction, students have advanced to the state competition fifteen out of the last sixteen years.

MATHCOUNTS is a nationwide middle school mathematics competition started in 1983 by the National Society of Professional Engineers, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and CNA Foundation to increase middle school interest in mathematics. The Eureka Chapter program has been offered since the 1980's, and is sponsored by the Environmental Resources Engineering department of Humboldt State University. The subject matter includes geometry, counting, probability, number theory, and algebra. The competition series consists of four levels of live, in-person competitions – school, chapter, state, and national. Each level has four rounds – Sprint, Target, Team, and Countdown Round – for a total of three hours of competition.

In the Sprint Round, contestants solve a written exam consisting of 30 problems with a time limit of 40 minutes. Contestants work individually, and calculators are not permitted. The Target Round contains eight problems; students have six minutes to work on each pair of problems, and calculators may be used. The Team Round is a ten-question exam which teams have twenty minutes to complete. The Countdown Round is a fast-paced oral competition, and consists of several matches in which two students compete head to head. Each year, teams of four students per state compete at the national level. The top team and the participants in the Countdown win a trip to the White House and meet the current President of the United States. Scholarships are awarded to high-ranking students, and many universities give scholarships to the top finishers at the state level.

To learn more about Sunny Brae Middle School, come to the Open House on Thursday, April 4 or visit [www.sunnybraemiddleschool.org](http://www.sunnybraemiddleschool.org) (call 822-5988 with questions). Additional information about the competition is available at [www.mathcounts.org](http://www.mathcounts.org).