



# MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION of AMERICA

## American Mathematics Competitions

February, 2010

Dear Parent or Guardian:

On February 9, 2010 and/or February 24, 2010 your son or daughter will participate in the 61<sup>st</sup> annual American Mathematics Competitions contest. This contest has grown from a single city-wide competition in New York City in 1950, organized by the local section of The Mathematical Association of America to a sequence of contests. In 2009, over 220,000 students from over 4,200 US and international schools competed for school, regional, and national awards in this contest and found it fun and rewarding. Top 10, well-known U.S. universities and colleges, including internationally recognized U.S. technical institutions, ask for AMC scores on their application forms. Your students deserve the chance to list these scores on their applications!

Each year the AMC 10 and AMC 12 are on the **National Association of Secondary School Principals Advisory List of Contests and Activities**. The AMC Contests are sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America, and are considered to be such a valuable stimulus to student interest in mathematics that 20 professional societies and organizations, including the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and those represented below, support the contests with financial contributions.



With these contests, there are awards in each school for the student with the highest score, certificates for high-scoring students in each school, state-wide awards, regional awards, and even national awards. These contests lead to other more selective math contests, even all the way to the USA team sent to the International Mathematical Olympiad, the premier international high school level problem solving contest.

But the real rewards come from challenging each student with mathematics that is new, different, and “outside of the box.” The problems on the contest are hard, but designed to be within reach. Just by participating in the contest your student should still feel accomplishment, because these problems are meant to be more challenging than routinely encountered in mathematics courses.

Mathematics is increasingly important in our technological and scientific age. Taking enough mathematics in high school is the gateway to jobs and careers of all kinds, even those that are not explicitly mathematical, scientific, or technological. We hope that by offering these contests, we can challenge and inspire students to learn more mathematics. We hope that your son or daughter enjoyed the contests, and will continue to take mathematics courses and competitions in high school and beyond.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven R. Dunbar  
AMC Director

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