Math Masters Challenge

FAQ

When and Where is Math Masters?

April 30th - Group 1 and May 1st - Group 2 at Harvey Hall in the Murphy Center at ECU from 8:30 - 1:45.

How are the students picked for the school's Math Masters Team?

Students take a qualifying test. The school is required to test a minimum of 25 students per grade level. The coach will then select the top six scores on the qualifying test for each of the 3 grade levels. (18 total students). In case of a tie, coaches will retest these students that are tied until the tie is broken and there are 6 students for each of the three grades.

How do I set up my groups?

Groups are set up by grade level. There are 3 students per grade level group. Each M2C team will have 2 groups per grade level. Groups can be set up anyway the coaches feel is most beneficial to the overall success of the M2C team. The only requirement is; there must be 3 students per group, 2 groups per grade level, with 6 total groups competing in the group portion of the competition.

What is testing like the day of competition?

Students will take both an individual test and a group test.
Individual test: 40 questions in 45 minutes. 5 points per correct answer
Group Test: 15 Questions in 30 minutes. 20 points per correct answer
It is recommended that when qualifying students for M2C that you use the actual testing scenario for choosing your team.

How is a school winner determined?

Total number of points. Each correct answer during the individual test is worth 5 points and 20 points are awarded for correct answers during the group testing. The winning school is the one with the highest point total.. In an event of a tie both schools will share the title.

How can I prepare my students' for Math Masters?

All test questions are NCSCOS based and come from the Study Island database. Please see your school Study Island administrator for user Id's and Passwords.

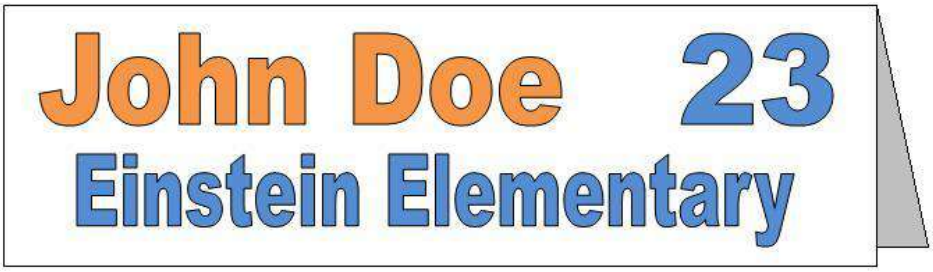
What does the teacher need to bring the morning of the competition?

Bring the following:

Calculators TI-15 or lower, pencils, snacks (for the afternoon competition) and a student name tag for the table. See example below:

Name tag should include student name, school, and key pad number

Please make name tag legible. Judges need to be able to easily identify a student during testing if it appears there is a problem. ie. child appears to be off pace or skipping answers. Judges monitor student responses during testing and with name tags judges are able to discretely find the location of the student and make sure everything is okay.



How do the controllers work?

Once a student has selected one of the multiple choice answers (A, B, C, or D) they **MUST** use the **Enter** button to transmit their answer to the database. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THEM TO UNDERSTAND.** If they do not use the "enter" button the computer does not know they have answered the question.
Students can use the arrow keys at the top of the controller forward (>) to skip a question or back (<) to review an answer choice.
If a student changes an answer they need to select the **Enter** button again so the computer knows the answer was changed.
Use the diagram below for a better explanation of each key on the controller.

The "symbol" button allows students to pull up certain symbols (ie. ▪ , -, +, ect.). A student would use this if they need a decimal in an answer such as; 12.2
For more information go to www.einstruction.com (look under training)

What is for lunch? Pizza

Can Parents come eat lunch with their child?

Yes. Unfortunately, we don't have the means to provide lunch for parents. They are welcome to bring something with them and share in the Math Masters experience with their child. Parents can bring their own lunch, eat with their child, and then stay for the individual Math Masters Challenge Rounds.

Can parents come for the morning testing portion of the competition?

No. During the two hour of testing parents are not allowed to be in the same room with the students. There really isn't anything to see while the students take the test. Parents are welcome to come around 11:30 for lunch and stay for the challenge round activities.

Where can parents sit?

Parents can sit with their child during lunch. However, once the individual Math Masters Rounds begin parents much sit in the designated area. See **layout** for seating instructions.

Will there be snacks between the individual and group testing?

No snacks between testing rounds. We do not have the time for that many students to get through a snack line and do bathroom breaks. You may however, bring snacks for after lunch and during the individual competition

Do we need to bring drinks and desserts?

Yes. Students may want a dessert after lunch. They will be able to have a drink at their table while the individual challenge rounds are going on.

Who pays for all this?

Math Masters is sponsor driven. Study Island provide the bulk of the money needed to pay for all competition expenses. Study Island provides the money for trophies and lunch. The only cost to Pitt County Schools is the cost of transportation. Wal-Mart donates the gift certificates for the Jeopardy Round finalist.

How did Math Masters start?

Math Masters is a Pitt County Schools original idea that started in the spring of 2003. However, it was actually a dream that turned in my brain for over five years before ever reaching the competition floor. As a Special Education teacher, I wanted to develop a competition in which my students would have the opportunity to experience academic success. Back in 1997, I had neither the know how or real motivation to figure out how to make that come about. In 2001, I became a Teacher in the Talented and Gifted (TAG) program. As I tried to prepare my students for End of Grade Testing, they never wanted to do the “same thing” they had already done in the regular classroom. With that in mind, I made my first “Making of a Math Master” PowerPoint. It was different and the students seemed more engaged in the learning process. I knew at that point I had stumbled onto something. The following year, with support from my principal, Roscoe Locke, I was determined to hold an event called The Math Masters Challenge. I lobbied this idea to my fellow TAG teacher cohorts, Julie Howard– Belvoir, Heloise Beckett-Bethel, Gretchen Williams-Ayden, and Karen Eberenez-Pactolous. We decided that we wanted to create an event that would allow our TAG students a format where they could compete and be successful within an even playing field. Math Masters has not only proven to be a place where students can succeed academically, it has also proven to be instrumental in the learning process and has sparked an unanticipated interest from the students. When a students’ first words to their TAG teacher the following year ask, “Are we doing Math Masters again this year?”, you know they are hooked on math. Thus, making our students into math masters has become a reality.

That's how it all began,

Tim DeCresie