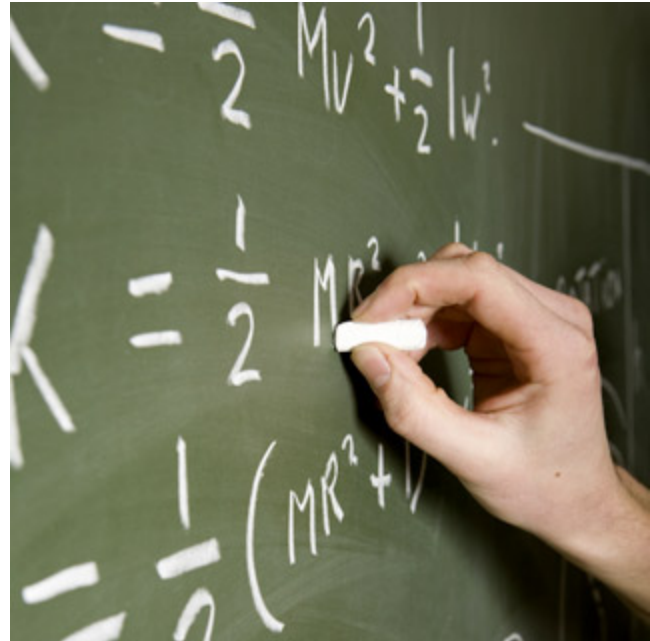


## EMCC HOSTS DISTRICT JUNIOR HIGH MATHEMATICS TOURNAMENT

MAYHEW – Students from eight public and private schools competed March 5 in the District Junior High Mathematics Tournament, hosted by East Mississippi Community College's Golden Triangle campus.



Competing in the math tournament were students from Heritage Academy in Columbus, Hebron Christian School in Pheba, New Hope Middle School in Columbus, Caledonia Middle School, Central Academy in Macon, Starkville Academy, Lee Middle School in Columbus and Armstrong Middle School in Starkville.

Just as last year, Armstrong Middle School made a strong showing, with each member of its team winning an award. But newcomer Hebron Christian School made its mark, too, with a first-place finish and New Hope Middle School had a second-place finisher. Here's a look at the winners:

Seventh-grade competition:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place, Ben Mackin, Armstrong Middle School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Sydney James, New Hope Middle School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place/alternate, Melinda Xu, Armstrong Middle School

Eighth-grade competition:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place, Hannah Park, Hebron Christian School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Dasha Bondarenko, Armstrong Middle School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place/alternate, Emily Turner, Armstrong Middle School

"I'm hardly an impartial observer, because I teach mathematics at EMCC, but I'm always so pleased to meet young people with an interest in this area," said event organizer Annalisa Ebanks. "It's so important to have a grasp of mathematics, and know how to apply those skills in your own life. Whether you're balancing your checkbook or trying to figure out how many miles to the gallon your car is getting, math is a part of daily life."

First- and second-place winners in the seventh- and eighth-grade district competitions will advance to the state tournament April 9 at Holmes Community College.