

MATHCOUNTS® at Blacksburg Middle School.

During the 2025/26 school year, the Mathcounts club will meet Mondays from 3:00pm to 4:00pm beginning September 15, 2025. Click on the [link for the parent permission form.](#)



- **What is Mathcounts?**

MATHCOUNTS provides engaging math programs to US middle school students of all ability levels to build confidence and improve attitudes about math and problem solving. Mathcounts leads into a national competition series for middle school students (grades 6-8). Students practice for a school competition and the school fields a team to go to the regional competition.

- **Who can participate?**

Every student who is enrolled at BMS can participate in the club's weekly practice activities and in the school competition. Based on the results in practice and at the school competition in January, up to 14 students will be chosen to represent BMS at the Chapter competition.

- **Will there be differentiation for beginners and returning students?**

This year, we will try running 2 groups: one for students new to Mathcounts, and one for returning students who have already competed at the Chapter or State level.

- **Can I compete for a team slot at the regionals even if I don't attend the weekly practices?**

Yes. However, qualification will be based on total points. You can earn points at the school competition in the Sprint and Target rounds, and you can earn additional points by participating in warmup rounds in the weekly practices.

- **What is the club doing at the weekly practices?**

We will practice using material from the school competition kit as well as using resources provided by Art of Problem Solving (aops.com). We will also learn and discuss anything Math-related that is of interest.

- **Do I need to be enrolled in Algebra I/Geometry/Algebra II to participate?**

No. All that's required is a passion for math. The earlier you start, the better.

- **Who is sponsoring and coaching the Mathcounts club at BMS?**

With the support of BMS administration, Dr. Back from Virginia Tech has agreed to coaching the club. Dr. Back is a former Math Olympiad competitor himself and also the coach of Virginia Tech's ICPC competitive programming team. Ms. Diane Goldsberry (dianegoldsberry@mcps.org) is our teacher sponsor. Theta Back (former Mathcounts competitor) and Yizheng Zhu will also help coaching.

- **Who do I contact with questions?**

You can reach Dr. Back at godmar@gmail.com and Ms. Diane Goldsberry at dianegoldsberry@mcps.org.