



SCJ ALLIANCE CONSULTING SERVICES

Jefferson Middle School Mathletes Win County Competition, Advance to State

LACEY, Washington, March 11, 2020 – What is the 48th positive odd integer?

If 95 didn't jump to mind, you wouldn't have made it far in Thurston County's MATHCOUNTS competition this year.

It took just seconds for local mathletes from Jefferson Middle School to answer that and other challenging questions to win the county-wide contest and advance to the state level held last month. The event was 1 of 500 throughout the country.



Thurston County's 2018 winning MATHCOUNTS team from Jefferson Middle School. From left: Saravanan Velu (Head Coach), Srivikaat Ravi, Shravya Gupta, Harshini V Saravanan, Vindhya Adamala, Ravi Somasundaram (Assistant Coach).



Jason Bruhn, an engineer at SCJ Alliance, has led the Thurston County chapter of MATHCOUNTS for 20 years. He's shown here with individual winner, Hadley Manista, who has been competing for the past two year.

MATHCOUNTS is a national middle school coaching and competitive mathematics program. It

promotes math achievement through a series of fun and engaging "bee" style competitions on the chapter, state, and national levels.

Jason Bruhn, an engineer at SCJ Alliance in Lacey, led the Thurston County contest held at Saint Martin's University and has volunteered as the chapter coordinator for the past 20 years on behalf of the National Society of Professional Engineers. This year he recruited SCJ colleague Dan Phillips to help out.

"I loved math as a kid," shares Jason. "I want to give back by supporting kids who have the same interest." By hosting the competition in Olympia, more local students can participate. "Seattle is just too far for many of them to go," he says.

Local participants in February's Thurston County competition came from Jefferson, Aspire, Tenino, and Ocosta middle schools and included two homeschool students. The top team, from Jefferson Middle School, and four top individuals advanced to the state competition.

Winners at the state competition move on to the national competition on May 9-12 in Orlando, FL.

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