

# What is a High School Math Day?

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Department of Mathematics  
University of Kentucky

28 March 2009 / High school math day at UK.

## Outline

1 Our event

2 Results

## Schedule

- 9am, Individual problem solving competition for students. Open discussion with parents and teachers.
- 10am, Lecture for students on the topic of coding theory.
- Break
- 11am, Small group sessions. Choice of a) Introduction to engineering. b) Constructing regular polyhedron c) The stable marriage theorem.
- 12noon, prizes, return competition papers.
- Optional campus tour.

## Costs

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- Student help, \$100.
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- Snacks for students about \$200.

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- Talks and tour of engineering were well-received.
- Kids enjoyed the food.
- Parents and teachers enjoyed discussion relating high school and college mathematics.
- The Department made contact with a group of students who are very good at mathematics. At least one is participating in ARML as a result.
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## What did not go so well

- Early start made it difficult for people from out of town.
- Competition did not have enough easy problems. Some students were discouraged by difficulty.
- No followup or arrangements for practice in schools.
- Perhaps we should have been better prepared for the open discussion.
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- Does Kentucky need a statewide mathematics competition?
- How can we combine such an event with a longer term effort to increase interest in the study of mathematics?

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