

## **Lincoln Middle School wins 8<sup>th</sup> state MATHCOUNTS championship; two students qualify for national competition**

For the seventh time in eight years and the 8<sup>th</sup> time overall, a team from Lincoln Middle School has won the Florida MATHCOUNTS championship, with two students earning spots on the state team.

The competition for middle school students, sponsored by the Florida Engineering Foundation, was held in Orlando this past weekend. The Lincoln team is coached by Jennifer Frazer, who also works as a counselor at Buchholz High School. Also competing at the state contest were teams from Howard Bishop and Kanapaha middle schools



The school's championship team included 8<sup>th</sup>-graders George Paret, Daniel Wei, and Ben Chronley and 7<sup>th</sup>-grader Edwin Gao. Sixth-grader Jason Zhang was the team alternate. The team took top honors by earning the highest number of points based on the members' performance in both individual and team events. Zhang also won the state competition for alternates.

Paret, Wei, Chronley and Gao all make it to the competition's Countdown round, meaning they were among the top ten students overall. This was only the second time that all four of Lincoln's team members made it to the Countdown. Paret won 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall, Wei took 4<sup>th</sup> place, Gao took 7<sup>th</sup> place and Chronley finished in 9<sup>th</sup> place.

By finishing in the top four, Paret and Wei have earned spots on the Florida MATHCOUNTS team, which will represent the state in the national competition in Washington, D.C. in mid-May.

The team also won the ciphering competition, in which a problem is shown on a screen and students have to respond within 45 seconds.

Four other students were among the top 50 finishers at the state competition. They include Andrew Xu (18<sup>th</sup>) and Jessie Deng (50<sup>th</sup>) from Lincoln, Harshitha Guruprasad (32<sup>nd</sup>) from Howard Bishop and Mario Duron (39<sup>th</sup>) from Kanapaha.

#####