



Moody's Mega Math Challenge 2008

M3Challenge.siam.org



Advice for students from past participants:

1. Basic knowledge of statistics is a great help. Using proper English and doing some practice problems from the previous Challenges are also great.
Zaid A. Hussain, New Dorp High School, Staten Island, NY
Brooklyn College, chemistry/pre-medicine
2. Be creative and don't hesitate to throw in seemingly outrageous ideas. After all, great and novel ideas all had to start somewhere.
Debbie Yee, Great Neck North High School, Great Neck, NY
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, engineering
3. Take your time and make a plan.
Adam Baginski, St. Peter's Preparatory School, Jersey City, NJ
McGill University, civil engineering
4. Make sure to take a break during the process. My group totally forgot about that. Understand the question and brainstorm what you know about the topic of the question. Besides making calculations by hand, keep working on a computer to avoid wasting time.
Evan Leung, Fort Hamilton High School, Brooklyn, NY
CUNY: The City College of New York, chemistry
5. Be thorough, concise in your report and creative. For those chosen to present, don't focus so much on reading what's on your slide and use the PowerPoint presentation as more of a visual guide instead of the entirety of your presentation.
Dorothea Tsang, Manalapan High School, Manalapan, NJ
Pennsylvania State University, chemical engineering
6. Have a great time but keep your eye on the clock!
Katherine Mateo, DeWitt Clinton High School, Bronx, NY
Macauley Honors College, political science
7. Put your best effort towards it whether you win or not, since it'll look good on your college applications and it'll help you solve problems in the future.
Jigar Shah, North Brunswick Twp. High School, North Brunswick, NJ
Cornell University, electrical and computer engineering
8. Be sure to know how to model mathematically.
Nathaniel Fox, Staples High School, Westport, CT
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, engineering
9. Just enjoy yourselves. The Challenge is an opportunity for you to experience the wonders of math, and you will receive the most benefit from it if you try to take in as much as you can. You shouldn't be nervous to participate in the M³ Challenge, but should look upon it as an adventure in mathematics.
Anthony Savas, Immaculata High School, Somerville, NJ
10. Have reference books at hand, as you will be collecting a lot of data.
Wei Chen, East Brunswick High School, East Brunswick, NJ
Rutgers University, mathematics
11. Students should bring an open mind along with knowledge in many different fields of mathematics, as you never know how many different approaches you can take to a problem.
Michael Stefanelli, Saint Peter's Preparatory School, Jersey City, NJ
12. Have fun and use the Challenge as a learning experience and a chance for growth. The Challenge is also an opportunity to strengthen your mathematical skills and broaden your knowledge of math and its importance in other subjects.
Jennifer Barden, Academy of Our Lady of Good Counsel High School, White Plains, NY
Loyola College in Maryland
13. Prepare well, form teams with students who work well together, pace yourself, and proofread.
Alexander Green, Columbia High School, South Orange, NJ
University of Michigan, business
14. Think outside the box.
Kara Sparling, Rocky Point High School, Rocky Point, NY
American University
15. Don't freak out. Keep working and don't be afraid to go back and change work that you have already done.
David Heinz, Horace Greeley HS, Chappaqua, NY
Stanford University (accepted) – will attend in the fall