September 17, 2013

Dear Superintendent, Principal or Mathematics Teacher,

For the first time, the Department of Mathematics at Bucknell University will serve as a host site for the AMC 8, a nationwide mathematical contest for middle-school students that is run by the Mathematical Association of America. We would like to invite you to bring up to six students to participate in the contest on campus at Bucknell. The contest will take place on Tuesday, November 19, 2013, with a tentative schedule as follows:

8:30-9:15am: arrival and breakfast;
9:30-10.10am: contest;
10:15-11am: while unofficial scores are determined, there will be a mathematical activity tailored to the level of the participants.

Breakfast and the contest fee will be covered by Bucknell.

As described on the website of the AMC contests, http://www.maa.org/math-competitions/about-amc, the American Mathematics Competitions are a series of contests whose mission is “to increase interest in mathematics and to develop problem solving through a fun competition.” The AMC 8 is the contest in the series that is aimed at middle-school students, with all students in grade 8 or below eligible to participate. It is a 25 question, 40 minute multiple choice exam, with topics covered including probability, estimation, percentages, elementary geometry including the Pythagorean Theorem, spatial visualization, everyday applications, and reading/interpreting graphs. The problems do not require the use of algebra or a calculator. Since the problems are meant to be challenging, even solving a small number of the problems can be considered a good performance.

If you would like to participate, please send an email with the number of students and the name and contact details of the accompanying adult to math@bucknell.edu by October 18, 2013. Driving directions and parking instructions will be sent prior to the contest.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Peter McNamara
Associate Professor of Mathematics
peter.mcnamara@bucknell.edu
Phone: 570-577-1901