



KENTUCKY CENTER FOR MATHEMATICS

Good News from KCM Coaching 2007-2008

Valley Traditional High Scores Big with Math Madness Tournament

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What do you get when you combine a basketball tournament with a math competition? Math Madness!

March Madness may start on March 15th, but Math Madness at Valley Traditional High School in Jefferson County took place on March 14th for mathematical reasons – 3/14 is Pi Day.

Math coach Silvia Lister and mathematics teachers at Valley Traditional High School hosted the tournament to help juniors and Algebra II students review for CATS.

“The Math Madness idea came from Robert Hennig, who has been doing the event in his classes for years,” Lister said. “This year we decided to do it on a larger scale.”

With the support of Hennig and Glenda Miller, a retired Valley

teacher hired temporarily to work with students, Lister took charge of organizing the event.

A few weeks before Pi Day, students were given the opportunity to either select their team or be assigned to a team with two or three other students. A few days before, the tournament bracket was posted in the hallway for students to view their teams and the competition.

On Pi Day, the teams competed in timed rounds. Test questions of varying levels of difficulty were projected on three screens in the gymnasium, with correct solutions earning points and a certain number of shots at a Fisher Price basketball hoop for additional points. Teams with the most points advanced to the next round.

In a showdown between the The

Flying Flamingos, Total of 2, Vajaan,

and the Thunder Chickens, Vajaan took the Championship, with all of the Final Four receiving trophies and the Elite Eight winning ice cream.

Lister assumed responsibility for many tasks to ensure the event ran smoothly, doing such things as reserving the space, creating the tournament bracket and PowerPoint of questions, recruiting staff assistance, organizing food distribution and cleanup, and monitoring students during the event. She was very pleased with the results.

“This was a big deal for our school,” Lister said. “We are really proud of it.”

