FALL 2026 UAB MATH TALENT SEARCH REPORT

The 23-rd annual UAB MTS (Math Talent Search) Contest took place on campus on Saturday, October 31, 2026.

The Math Talent Search, sponsored by the College of Arts & Sciences Department of Mathematics, invites students in grades 8-12 to put their mathematic talents and gifts to the test. This competitive event challenges participants with a rigorous exam designed to recognize and celebrate curious and intelligent minds.

Students began arriving at the University Hall at 8:15 a.m. There were roughly 145 students, grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, from 7 schools. With coaches and chaperons, we had a crowd of around 165 people. Students and guests were treated to breakfast snacks, coffee and cold drinks as they waited for the contest to begin.

At 9:00 a.m. students began the two-hour test.

At 11:10, Proctors promptly collected student tests, and directed the students and coaches attended UAB Scholarship Presentation from our Chair, Dr. Milena Stanislavova, which was completed by 12:00 PM. In these presentations we discussed UAB and the Department of Mathematics Scholarship opportunities, and what careers one could pursue with a Mathematics Degree from UAB. Students, coaches, and staff were directed to the first-floor lobby, where they enjoyed pizza and company. At 1pm the Award Ceremony took place, where we announced the overall school and individual winners of the 23rd annual math competition. We also talked about the programs available at UAB Department of Mathematics, including our Fast Track Program.

While all that was happening, the UAB math faculty and graduate teaching assistants began the challenging task of grading and judging the solutions of the test problems submitted by 145 students. The graders did a good job of determining the winners. By 1pm the outcome of the contest was decided.

The Awards Ceremony began at 1pm. Schools who won the contest received trophies while the student winners received certificates and books about mathematics.

The following prizes were awarded.

8-10th grade Individual Winners:

1st place: Luke Willis (ASFA)

2nd place: Sagar Yellamraju (ASFA)

3rd place: Leo Zhao (ASFA)

4th place: Vedanth Siva (Bob Jones)

School Winners in the 9-10th grade

1st place - ASFA

2nd place - Hoover

3rd place – Bob Jones

11th grade Individual Winners

1st place: Alex Zhu (ASFA)

2nd place: Saharsh Prasanna (Hoover)

3rd place: Advik Sharma (ASFA)

4th place: Riley Hwang

School Winners in the 11th grade

1st place - ASFA

2nd place - Hoover

3rd place – Spain Park

12th grades Individual Winners

1st place: Alex Berry (Grissom)

2nd place: Greeshma Vinoy (ASFA)

3rd place: Ayan Roychandhery (Hoover)

4th place: Raymond Hiu (ASFA)

School Winners in the 12th grade

1st place - ASFA

2nd place – Grissom

3rd place – Spain Park

Schools trophies were awarded based on the composite score of the three top scorers.

All in all, it was a full day of activities for student visitors and the UAB Math Department.

Our thanks to the sponsors of this event: Dean Vohra and our chairperson Dr Stanislavova (who encouraged us and helped us all along in our efforts to run the contest).

Our thanks also to all the students, faculty members of our Department, and members of their families, who helped this year's UAB MTS Contest success.

Until UAB MTS 2027,

Best wishes,

Alexander Blokh, Outreach Director