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San Francisco Math Circle to Offer After-School Programs in Advanced Mathematics

San Francisco middle and high school students will soon have an opportunity to work with university mathematicians, educators and Olympiad problem-solving champions by joining the new San Francisco Mathematics Circle (SFMC). Established by the Berkeley-based Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI), the San Francisco Mathematics Circle is funded by Moody's KMV. The circle is part of a network of similar programs based in Berkeley and in San Jose, California. Participation will be voluntary, and there will be no charge for the weekly sessions, which will take place after school on the campus of the University of San Francisco. Activities will allow students to learn about exciting advanced mathematics topics, as well as connections between mathematics and other sciences, such as physics, biology, computer science and economics. In addition, students will be encouraged to enter the annual Bay Area Mathematics Olympiad competition, which culminates with an award ceremony and a lecture by a distinguished mathematician.

"By establishing a math circle in San Francisco, we hope to provide students with a chance to meet people in the field — mathematicians, and other scientists," says David Eisenbud, Director of MSRI. "At the same time, we will be offering students an informal, after-school setting where they can meet each other, and share their interest in mathematics and science." The San Francisco Mathematics Circle is scheduled to be up and running by September 2005.

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MSRI is an independent, non-profit organization supported by eighty leading international universities, the private sector, the National Science Foundation, and the National Security Agency. To researchers from the United States and abroad, MSRI serves as a mathematics think-tank. The Institute also sponsors conferences for educators, weekly math circles and competitions for high school students, and public outreach programs with a focus on people in the news, and how they use mathematics in their work.

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