

December 2018

Dear School Principal:

This letter is to support your teacher or curriculum coordinator's request to take children from your school to the first-ever **School Preview Day** for the 2019 [National Math Festival](#) at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center on **Friday, May 3, 2019**.

Who is eligible?

Session I, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, is open to PreK – Grade 8 from local public and private schools.
Session II, 2:30 pm – 5:30 pm, is open to Grades 4 – 12 from non-local schools and any homeschoolers.

The day includes age-appropriate hands-on mathematics activities designed by math educators for fun, engaged learning. Students will:

- “Make patterns with turtles, count, spiral, and play their way to mathy delight” with **Natural Math** and **Math-On-A-Stick**.
- Plunge into the "Wonder-ful" world of math with the **National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath)**. They will "slice shapes with lasers, explore giant mazes, crank up the math tunes, design a roller coaster, and more."
- Play Math MINDs Games: South of the Sahara, "based on gameplay and events from Ghana, Mozambique, and Madagascar. In this way, history, culture, and geography actively ground the learning of new and complex ideas." This activity is hosted by the **MIND Research Institute**.
- Join the **Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival** to "celebrate your mind with mathematics. Come see how mathematics can jump off the pages of a book, grow out of a board game, or emerge from a the dialogue of a cartoon."
- Explore a math-art exhibit by the **Bridges Organization**.
- “Compete in a friendly math competition” hosted by the **Young People's Project**. "The Flagway™ Game combines speed, athleticism, and precision with the mastery of mathematics. Flagway™ has the same elements that most sports have: running, scoring points, teamwork, coaching, training, competition, collaboration, and fun." Wear your sneakers!

Limited funding is available for Title I schools to offset the cost of bus rental or Metro purchases to make student attendance possible.

All the activities described above are carefully chosen by the [Mathematical Sciences Research Institute \(MSRI\)](#), one of the world's preeminent centers for collaborative research in mathematics. MSRI is a national leader in the [Public Understanding of Mathematics](#), with events, resources, films, books, and TV programs for all ages.

Teachers, students, and their families are invited to return for the full experience of the [National Math Festival](#) – expected to draw more than 20,000 persons, free and open to the public 10am to 4pm, on Saturday, May 4 – with stage presentations, films, book readings, take-aways for educators, and much, much more!

The 2019 National Math Festival brings together persons of all ages and backgrounds to experience math in new and exciting ways. The event is organized by the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) in cooperation with the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) and the National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath).

Thank you very much for your consideration of this funding request, which would greatly support the enjoyment and learning of all our students, regardless of their previous level of interest or ability in mathematics!