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SF Math Circle serves students in three locations starting Sept. 15, 2008

Middle and high school students benefit from free math enrichment program in the Mission, Bayview-Hunters Point and San Francisco State University

Berkeley, CA – The San Francisco Math Circle (SFMC; www.sfmathcircle.org/index.html) begins its fourth year of engaging students with math in a fun and exploratory manner by expanding its after-school enrichment program to three locations throughout San Francisco. Students in grades 6-10 can attend SFMC at the original site, at San Francisco State University (SFSU) in the Business Bldg., Rms. 107, 108, 111, and 113; at Mission High School (3750 18th St.); or at Thurgood Marshall High School in Bayview-Hunters Point (45 Conkling St.). The three SF Math Circles will meet on Monday afternoons: SFSU at 4:30–5:30 pm and the two other locations at 4:00–5:00 pm. Meetings in the fall semester run from September 15 through November 17, 2008 and during the spring semester from February 2 through May 18, 2009.

"Mathematical games" will be the first topic studied in depth over the course of four meetings at each circle location. Four math topics will be covered at the meetings during 2008-09, in four blocks of dates. The final meeting of each of the four blocks (Oct. 6, Nov. 17, Mar. 23, and May 18) will be joint, allowing the Circle students to interact with their peers from all over the city. At these plenary meetings all three SF Math Circles will meet at one location on the SFSU campus. Buses will transport students from the two satellite circles in the Mission and Bayview-Hunters Point to SFSU and afterward return them to their doorsteps.

SFMC has achieved a diverse ethnic participation and continues to seek to enroll under-represented students who are enthusiastic about math; many are drawn from economically disadvantaged schools, which often lack access to academic enrichment programs.

The SF Math Circles are taught by mathematics professors from Bay Area universities, undergraduate Teaching Assistants, and local math teachers who have participated in a math circle training program, Circle for Teachers. Circle for Teachers runs concurrently at SFSU with the students' SFMC meetings and covers similar material, yet at an appropriately higher level. On average, 80 students attended the SFMC each week in 2007-08 and a total of 170 students participated.

"A math circle is not just a math club," said Paul Zeitz, USF professor and SF Math Circle founder and Co-Director. "It is a unique opportunity for high-school and middle-school students who are interested in math to learn about amazing topics that build upon and reinforce the traditional subjects, such as algebra or geometry, but also take them very far afield from the standard math curriculum."

The San Francisco Math Circle, co-sponsored by the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI), is offered free-of-charge to students through generous funding from The Moody's Foundation and the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, both of which have supported SFMC since its inception in the fall of 2005.

The **Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI**, www.msri.org**)** is one of the world's premiere centers for research in the mathematical sciences, and has been advancing mathematical research through workshops and conferences since its founding as an independent institute in 1982. More than 2,500 mathematical scientists visit MSRI each year in Berkeley, CA, many for stays of up to one academic year. The Institute has been funded primarily by the National Science Foundation with additional support from other government agencies, private foundations, academic and corporate sponsors, and individual donors. MSRI is involved in K-12 math education through the annual "Critical Issues" conferences for educators and math circles and Olympiads for students, and public education through its "Conversations" series of public events.

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