



Our Lady of Lourdes

Weekly School News

*From the desk of
Principal Chris Uptmor*

Testing is a measurement of academic progress for students and an opportunity for faculty to learn as well.

Our school has been selected to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Our eighth grade will test in language arts, social studies or math on March 6.

We will test in one subject.

The NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continual assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas.

It is a program of the U.S. Department of Education.

Anytime we can get extra data in comparison with other schools, it is an important to our school's improvement.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Feb. 20, Presidents day, NO SCHOOL
- Feb. 23, OLOL World's Fair, 1 p.m. in the school



THIRD PLACE:
The 7th grade boys basketball team beat Pontiac St. Mary's 34-24 in the third-place game of the IESA State Tournament at East Peoria Central Jr. High on Feb. 9.

Math adds up to some serious fun

Albert Einstein said math is the poetry of logical ideas.

In that sense, Our Lady of Lourdes junior high students began writing a new chapter for our school at the MATHCOUNTS Regional competition hosted by Millikin University on Feb. 11.

The MATHCOUNTS Competition Series is a national program that provides students the opportunity to compete in live, in-person contests against and alongside their peers. Created in 1983, it is the longest-running MATHCOUNTS program and is open to all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students.

Taking some time out of their Saturday, eight students from OLOL competed at this event for the first time.

Junior high math teacher Mr. Bryan Kenney said all students were welcome to try out for the team. They took a test to determine the top four and four alternates, and two others also practiced after school to get ready.

"We practiced throughout January," Mr. Kenney said. "It was our first year going, so I learned a lot about the overall structure of the program."



MATHLETES: The Our Lady of Lourdes MATHCOUNTS Regional team at Millikin University.

There are sprint, target, team and countdown rounds. The rounds focus on speed/accuracy, problem solving, teamwork and going one-on-one with the top eight scorers in another speed round.

Mr. Kenney said the students did well in their first attempt at MATHCOUNTS.

"The kids are excited about doing it again next year," Mr. Kenney said. "We learned we'll have to start preparing earlier and what kinds of formulas and problems to be prepared for."

The team was Thomas Pokrzywinski, Alexander Harshman, Kayla Smith, Cameron Knapik, Matt Brummer, Joe Brummer, Caleb Henry, Abraham Buckner, Emmery Kovalcik and Abigail Garcia.