What is a High School Math Day?

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Department of Mathematics
University of Kentucky

28 March 2009 / High school math day at UK.
Outline

1. Our event

2. Results
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Our event

Results

Schedule

- 9am, Individual problem solving competition for students. Open discussion with parents and teachers.
- 10am, Lecture for students on the topic of coding theory.
- Break
- 12noon, prizes, return competition papers.
- Optional campus tour.
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Results

Costs

- Minimal cost for xeroxing, supplies and mailing.
- Student help, $100.
- Prizes for competition. $200 for Klein bottles and small sets of regular polyhedra.
- Snacks for students about $200.
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- A group of 20 or so parents and teachers stayed for the discussion.
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What went well

- Talks and tour of engineering were well-received.
- Kids enjoyed the food.
- Parents and teachers enjoyed discussion relating high school and college mathematics.
- The Department made contact with a group of students who are very good at mathematics. At least one is participating in ARML as a result.
- The Department may have earned some good will from our Engineering program.
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What did not go so well

- Early start made it difficult for people from out of town.
- Competition did not have enough easy problems. Some students were discouraged by difficulty.
- No followup or arrangements for practice in schools.
- Perhaps we should have been better prepared for the open discussion.
- Difficult to recruit UK students to help on the day of a home football game.
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¿Questions?

- What are other schools are doing to attract kids to the study of mathematics?
- Does Kentucky need a statewide mathematics competition?
- How can we combine such an event with a longer term effort to increase interest in the study of mathematics?
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http://www.math.uky.edu/Undergrad/mathday/