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Apex College Prep Places 3rd in National Math Contest

Seattle, WA – December 30, 2016 – Walnut Creek’s Apex College Prep has some of the best middle-school mathematicians in the country, as demonstrated by their 3rd-place finish in the 2016 Fall Startup Event, a national mathematics contest administered by National Assessment & Testing (<http://www.natassessment.com>). Coach Jason Yi prepared students for the first major competition of the academic year, in which students worked furiously for thirty minutes, racing to answer one hundred problems in a variety of mathematical topics.

The Fall Startup Event is an individual competition, in which each student tries to solve as many fast and easy problems as they can within the time limit. Topics range from arithmetic to calculus, including math topics that are not covered in the standard high school curriculum. According to Tom Clymer, the director of the competition, “It’s a lot like a musician practicing scales; these common operations and problems can become second-nature and nearly instantaneous.” With so many questions and so little time, competitors must not only have strong mathematical skills, but also be able to quickly decide which problems to solve and which to skip.

After results from students across the nation were processed, two Apex College Prep students received individual awards on the Fall Startup Event, helping their team to place 3rd in the nation. In the 9th-grade division, David Yang and Andrew Jiang placed 8th and 14th, respectively. Apex College Prep will be participating in three of National Assessment & Testing’s contests this year, including the 2016 Cipherring Time Trials on December 8th and 2017 Four-by-Four Competition on February 2nd. Each of these contests features ten rounds in which students have three minutes to answer problems, but the first requires students to work individually on three problems per round, while the second allows teams of four to tackle four harder problems in each round.

National Assessment & Testing administers high-quality mathematics competitions that middle and high schools can participate in by e-mail. Their contests cover a variety of

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formats, including individual and team tests, as well as a variety of difficulties, from one hundred easy problems in thirty minutes to fifteen complex problems in one week.

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