



For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Erica Bates | erica@gzandassociates.com | 917-559-4984

Helios Middle School Teacher Joshua Zucker Wins The National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) 11th Annual “Masters Tournament,” a Global “Brain-to-Brain” Competition Challenging the World's Top Mathematical Warriors

*Zucker Wins Competition for Second Consecutive Year
After Tournament Goes Virtual Due to Pandemic*

New York, NY (March 2, 2022) — Joshua Zucker, a teacher at the Helios School, a middle school in Sunnyvale, CA was named the winner of the 11th annual National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) Masters Tournament, hosted on Zoom Tuesday, February 22. This marks Zucker’s second year in a row as “MoMath Master,” after the event moved online last year due to the pandemic, transforming it into a global “brain to brain” competition for the world's top mathematical minds.

The Masters Tournament is the equivalent of an adult-only mathematical Spelling Bee, challenging contenders to answer math trivia questions, logic puzzles, and “classic” problem-solving questions.

“Following a challenging and hard-fought competition, we are excited to congratulate Joshua Zucker as the winner—for a second time—of this year’s MoMath Masters Tournament,” said Cindy Lawrence, CEO and Executive Director. “The Museum has enjoyed welcoming math lovers from around the world as participants in our programs since bringing many of them online in March 2020 due to the pandemic. Joshua’s victory on the West Coast is emblematic of the expanded reach of MoMath and the

ways we've been able to engage hundreds of thousands with the beauty and joy of math."

Zucker competed against competitors including top hedge-fund managers, math professors, and software engineers from all around the country in a 45-minute round of cognitive (and combative) math trivia, logic puzzles, and "classic" math questions, before qualifying to move on to the finals.

In the final round, after 30 minutes of timed questions where players were eliminated instantly upon giving wrong answers, Zucker ended victorious.

"It is great that for the past two years with the pandemic, MoMath found a way to move the competition online - even more people can participate and watch," commented Zucker. "Math organizes thinking, applies logic and reason and develops creativity and communication. MoMath does such great work bringing math to life and showing how much fun it can be to play with mathematical puzzles."

Following Mr. Zucker's first place victory was Brian Lee, landed in second place, and Ben Sokolowsky, was in third place. Individual category winners from the competition's first round included Samuel Korsky, in the Math Classics category; Saul Rosenthal, President of Oxford Funds, LLC and MoMath Trustee in the Math Pulse category, and Peter Winkler, the William Morrill Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at Dartmouth University and former MoMath Distinguished Visiting Professor, in the Gardner Greats category.

For more information on this and past years MoMath Masters Tournament, please visit masters.momath.org.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MATHEMATICS

The National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) is the only math museum in North America. It is located at 11 East 26th Street on the northside of popular Madison Square Park in Manhattan and is open seven days a week, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Since opening in December 2012, MoMath has welcomed over 1.1 million visitors, including over 250,000 students and 8,400 school groups. When mandated by New York City to close in March 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic, MoMath transformed itself into a virtual Museum with an extensive global footprint. Since the public health crisis, MoMath has provided more than 3,200 online programs reaching more than 95,000 participants from all 64 U.S. States and Territories, as well as 110 countries, including Australia, Vietnam, Guatemala, Egypt, Argentina, Indonesia, China, Pakistan, Bhutan, Sweden, Chad, Zambia, and France.

For more information, visit momath.org.