

# Gifted Students Embrace First In Math® Online Program

Comprehensive Program Empowers K-2 Students to Achieve at Sixth-grade Level

## Ohio Kindergarten Student Scores Amazing Progress Using First In Math® Online Program

CINCINNATI, OH—Max Paula is an amazing kindergartner who was searching for a challenge in math. "First In Math® not only provided him with that challenge, but has allowed him to blossom academically, emotionally and socially. In his mind, the online program has validated him as a person and as a child with real mathematical ability," says Barbara Morelock, Gifted and Talented Intervention Specialist at Fairview German Language School in Cincinnati.

In March, 24<sup>th</sup> Game inventor Robert Sun attended a First In Math® award ceremony to honor Fairview students, and some of the teachers began telling him about Max. "At first, I didn't believe what I was hearing," says Sun. "I had to see for myself, so I watched in amazement as five-year-old



Pictured, l to r: Barbara Morelock, Gifted and Talented Intervention Specialist; Betsy Singh, Coordinator of Gifted Programming; Max and Robert Sun.

Max began multiplying and dividing with negative numbers in the Integers Gym."

"What makes it even more impressive is the fact that Max progressed through most

of these new skills on his own, with minimal instruction," explains Sun. "First In Math® is designed to immerse students in the learning process—thereby encouraging the acquisition of new skills."

Mrs. Turner, Max's Kindergarten teacher, agrees. "The program not only captures his attention, but also encourages him to persevere until he masters a concept. First In Math® has taken Max to the next level—even sixth-graders seek out his help!" she says.

As of May, 2006, Max has amassed more than 3,080 stickers and has completed all eight Skill Sets®, which include fractions, integers, decimals, exponents and algebra cards. He is currently the top scorer in his school, all grades.

## Maryland Elementary School Student Honored for National Achievement in First In Math® Program

GLENARDEN, MD—Prince George's County's Glenarden Woods Elementary School is home to the nation's top-ranked second-grader in the First In Math® Online Program. Caleb McCammon has earned more than 9,900 award stickers, placing him in an elite group of students. Fewer than 50 of the more than 300,000 elementary- and middle-school students nationwide make it into this scoring tier—this amazing second-grader is ranked #36!

McCammon received a gold medal and a special award from program creator Robert Sun during a ceremony held May 12. McCammon's team, "System 5 MD," led by Glenarden Woods teacher David Doran, was also honored as the 6th-ranked second-grade team competing in the program. Mrs. Oretha Bridgewater, Region 2 Director for Prince George's County, was one of several County Administrators who attended event. Dr. Jeanne Paynter of the Maryland



Caleb displays his FIM Certificate of Excellence.

State Department of Education was on hand for the awards presentation, as were Judith Russ and Diane Kendrick, Mathematics Supervisors for Prince George's County.

"We are proud to enhance mathematics education for students through the First In

Math program," said Theresa Jackson, PG County's Talented and Gifted Supervisor. "This initiative offers a fun and innovative learning experience for children in math and technology to prepare them with critical skills for the future. Today's event at Glenarden Woods celebrates students' enthusiasm for math and serves as an inspiration to all of us."

"I think everyone should congratulate Caleb and his classmates for their outstanding achievement in math," said Robert Sun. "The 21st century will be defined by technological, scientific and mathematical advancement, and America's prominence in this age cannot be assured without talented students. Praise must also be given to the math teachers at Glenarden Woods Elementary for providing an environment of achievement, and to Prince George's County administrators for offering this program to highlight scholastic excellence."