GULFSTREAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

Smallest Broward County middle school takes home first place trophy in countywide mathematics video game tournament

Gulfstream Middle School, the smallest Broward County middle school, took home the first place trophy in the first of its kind countywide mathematics video game tournament on May 21, 2009. Thirty-two teams from Broward County Schools participated. Hosted by Tabula Digita, the developer of DimensionM educational videogame software, the competition took place at the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum in Dania Beach.

The tournament featured teams going head-to-head in a live competition while playing the mathematics video game Swarm. Three sections played simultaneously with monitors setup to watch each round of the competition. All teams competed against another school in a five-minute game and the 16 winning teams moved to the second round. The top four teams competed in the fourth round, this time playing a ten-minute game. The top two teams then competed in the final.

Gulfstream Middle brought two teams, one winning the competition and the other cheering on their classmates and energizing the crowd. “The competition taught our middle school students not only about different standards in mathematics, but also how important it is to work as a team. As a single player they could easily be eliminated but as a team they learned to work with each other’s strengths and quickly became the team to beat,” said Samara Routenberg, Gulfstream Middle School Mathematics Coach.

Members of the winning Gulfstream Middle School team are Alex Baez, Daniel Durden, Juan Gomez, Dante Narze, Eddie Valeisha, and Duke Megnauth. DimensionM Broward County District Champs from front to back: Alex Baez, Juan Gomez, Eddie Valeisha, Dante Narze and Daniel Durden.

Sunshine State Standards for Mathematics in developing the educational video games: Obstacle Course, Meltown, and Swarm. Students find the games engaging and a good tool to practice their mathematics skills.

Winning team with their trophies from left to right: Samara Routenberg (coach), Daniel Durden, Alex Baez, Dante Narze, Eddie Valeisha, Juan Gomez and Duke Megnauth (coach) Gulfstream Middle School DimensionM team.