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BROWARD COUNTY STUDENTS PUT MATH SKILLS TO THE TEST IN FIRST COUNTY-WIDE EDUCATIONAL VIDEO GAME COMPETITION

Students in Intra-District Tournament Will Compete Head-to-Head
Using Tabula Digita’s DimensionM Gaming Software

NEW YORK – May 6, 2009 – Most people might know the answer to the basic equation of $x + 79 = 194$, but can they find the value for “$y$” in the linear equation $y = 2x + 1$? That’s what 160 students from 24 Broward County Middle Schools will find out when they compete this month in the first countywide multiplayer math video game tournament.

The tournament, hosted by Tabula Digita, developer of the award-winning DimensionM™ educational video game software, will be held at IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum in Dania Beach, FL on Thurs., May 21 from, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Other district-wide tournaments will be held in New York City, NY on May 15 and in Garland, TX on May 12. The three events comprise Tabula Digita’s MegaBowl 2009 educational video game competitions. Additional information about the Broward tournament or the MegaBowl 2009 can be found at www.DimensionM.com/Megabowl

“By engaging in this immensely competitive yet academically-driven tournament, Broward County is proving itself a leader in the trend of combining traditional math competitions with advanced video game technology. It’s the new and winning equation in the instruction of math – kids having fun, learning math and developing critical thinking and problem solving skills,” said Ntiedo Etuk, chief executive officer of Tabula Digita.

During the energy-packed contest, students in grades six to eight will go head-to-head using their math skills to advance through several distinct “missions” offered in the DimensionM gaming platform. To most observers it might appear as though the student players are just having fun. In fact they are, but they are also tackling numerous mathematical obstacles that require an elevated level of knowledge of the math content to successfully score the most points. And while they are busy demonstrating their math
proficiency, they are also vying for a chance at prizes including Nintendo DS, iPod Shuffles and iTunes gift cards.

The excitement for the competition has been building for weeks as Broward County students have been busily learning and mastering math concepts ranging from prime numbers to linear equations to adding and subtracting integers. Each of the 24 schools have been logging time in the games and will send one team of four players plus one alternate. The top eight middle schools, as measured by the amount of time played from April 1 – April 30, are allowed to send a second team. The 3-D virtual world in DimensionM gains and keeps students’ attention by incorporating challenge, control, curiosity, collaboration, and competition – key elements that have been proven to drive engagement and improve academic achievement. All concepts used in the game are aligned with Sunshine State Standards for Mathematics.

Diane Carr, executive director of curriculum in Broward County, had this to say, “DimensionM, as an instructional tool, fits perfectly into our schools because it successfully meets today’s digital students in the world they live in with a highly interactive 3-D gaming format just like other popular video games they play at home every day. But the key is that while they are having fun, the students are also learning and mastering math and honing critical thinking and problem solving skills.”

To help Broward County teachers get their students on board, Tabula Digita has added a “Toolkit” feature to its website where teachers can download and print promotional posters and flyers for their students, motivating them to prepare for the tournament. The interactive website – http://www.DimensionM.com/Megabowl – features helpful information including tips on hosting future virtual tournaments, detailed rules and information about the final events.

**About Tabula Digita**
Tabula Digita is the leading developer and provider of innovative, standards-based educational video games to students and K-12 schools. Through its fusion of education and technology-based immersive learning systems, Tabula Digita successfully offers high impact, research-driven educational tools that engage elementary, middle and high school students in learning.

In 2008, Tabula Digita was named the Best Educational Game/Simulation from the Software Industry Information Association (SIIA). The company was founded in Manhattan’s Silicon Alley in 2003. For more information, please call 1-877-6-TABULA or 1-877-682-2852 or visit www.DimensionM.com.

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