

Dr. Lydie Labaudinière
Math Department Chair/Middle School Math Teacher

Math Department Chair and Middle School Math Teacher, Dr. Lydie Labaudinière has been at The Sage School for eight years. This year, Lydie was honored as a 2009 winner of an Edyth May Sliffe Award for Distinguished Junior High/Middle School Mathematics Teaching. This award, administered by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), recognizes teachers who have contributed substantially to the success of some of the highest scoring students on the American Mathematics Contest 8. Lydie is one of only 52 teachers nationwide who have been selected for this honor. Each year, The Sage School has some of the highest scorers in the country on the AMC 8 exam. The consistent excellent effort by Sage students has placed the school among the top in the region.

In addition to teaching, Lydie coaches the Middle School Math Club which has enjoyed much success over the past few years. Lydie feels blessed with Middle School students who thoroughly enjoy math class and competitions. Our extensive curriculum is taught in depth, at a fast pace, and is in average one year above grade level. Consequently, it gives students a solid background and an edge on competitions. Every year, students in Algebra 1 and above participate in the AMC8, AMC10 (for those who qualify), and the MathCounts competition. This year, for the first time ever, Sage will send two students to the National MathCounts competition in Orlando on May 6 and 7.

In addition, all Middle School students take the New England Math League at the end of February. This is a national competition taken in school where students have thirty minutes to solve 40 problems. The national average is 10/40. The Sage School average is approximately 32/40, and this year there were six Sage students with perfect scores.

After several years of competitions, Lydie says it is obvious that students do not compete against their peers from Sage or other schools. Every year, every day, they are in competition with themselves. Often, they tell her to keep their pins and certificates. Awards rarely matter. For students, the most important moment is the two-second period when they hear their scores and feel the self-satisfaction in knowing that they did their best.