



Nova Central School District  
May 1, 2009

**Media Advisory: Nova Central School District to Hold Mathematics Graphics Design Contest**

On Tuesday, May 5, 2009 approximately 50 senior high school Mathematics students will compete in a Graphics Design event at the Nova Central School District regional office in Grand Falls-Windsor. These Level I-II students have already competed in regional grade level competitions to design a graphic on a graphing calculator, using Mathematical equations.

This contest is funded through the provincial government's *Excellence in Mathematics Strategy*. One of the goals of the strategy is to foster a more positive view towards Mathematics. In addition to activities for students and Mathematics teachers, cash prizes totaling more than \$1,500 will be awarded for the top three graphic designs at each grade level, as well as a prize for best overall project.

The event will run from 9:00AM to 3:00PM on Tuesday.

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## Students Compete in Mathematics Graphics Design Contest

### Background

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On Tuesday, May 5, 2009 approximately 50 senior high school Mathematics students will participate in a graphics design event at the Nova Central School District regional office in Grand Falls-Windsor. These students, aged 15 to 17, have already competed in regional grade level competitions and have been awarded almost \$2500 in cash prizes.

All high school Mathematics students from the district were invited to submit a graphic that they had designed using equations they had learned in Math class. The graphics were to be displayed on their TI-83/84 Plus Graphing Calculator. Students were asked to use at least 20 equations including a certain number of required equations (based on past and current Mathematics courses). They were given approximately a month to create their designs and upload them to the contest site. Students were required to keep a learning journal and to reflect on what they were creating on a day to day basis, including such things as the equations they were using, problems they were experiencing and how they solved them. The learning journals were evaluated as part of the students' overall submissions. The entries were judged electronically by 10 different judges from across the province and the USA.

All students who submitted designs to the contest will now participate in a district contest where their work will undergo a second round of judging. Cash prizes totaling more than \$1500 will be awarded for the top three designs at each grade level as well as a prize for best overall project. In addition to the judging, two representatives from *Texas Instruments* will attend the event to work with both students and their teachers. Students will take part in two activities involving the TI-84 Plus Graphing Calculators as well as several group competitions. Teachers will take part in a session on the TI-Nspire, a new handheld learning technology from Texas Instruments.

The contest is funded under the provincial government's *Excellence in Mathematics Strategy*. One of the goals of the strategy is to foster a more positive view about Mathematics. In addition to the graphics design contest, the Excellence in Mathematics Strategy has also supported Math Challenges, Senior High Math League competitions, a Grade Six Math Challenge and Math Days, including 'Family Math Days' and 'The Amazing Math Race'. Thirty schools in Nova Central School District also received funding through the strategy to host Math events at their school.