Mathematics Foundation Phase Results

Grades 1 – 3 • 2026 Olympiad

SA Olympiads, in conjunction with FEMSSISA, produced the Mathematics Olympiads for grades 1 – 3 in 2026. This report covers the Foundation Phase; the Senior Primary and high-school phases are reported separately.

An Olympiad asks a learner to do more than recall what has been taught. It sets unfamiliar problems in a familiar subject, and rewards the learner who reads carefully, reasons clearly and is willing to attempt a question whose method is not obvious.

That is a different skill from writing a school test, and it is one that grows with practice. Learners who sit Olympiads tend to approach their own examinations more confidently, because they have met questions that cannot be answered by memory alone. The habits it builds – structured reasoning, persistence, checking your own work – carry well beyond the subject itself.

Our thanks to every school that entered this year, and to the teachers who prepared learners and ran the sittings.

A. Overall Results

More than 111 100 learners and 1 010 schools participated in these Olympiads in 2026, making this one of the biggest Olympiads in South Africa. The total number which entered this phase was approximately 30 300 learners. As in 2025, the Grade 1 learners outperformed the grades above them, with 16% achieving gold and a further 28% silver – close to double the gold share of 2025. Grade 3 improved sharply, lifting gold from 6% to 15% and cutting the participation band from 55% to 38%. Grade 2 is now the weakest of the three grades, though it too reduced its participation band, from 47% to 38%. Where your school has performed better than below, these educators must be applauded for their outstanding work.

A summary of the performance in terms of the gold, silver, bronze and participation categories is detailed below:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Participation
Grade 1	16%	28%	24%	32%
Grade 2	8%	23%	31%	38%
Grade 3	15%	24%	23%	38%
Overall	**13%**	**25%**	**26%**	**36%**

Table 1

B. Top Learners per Grade

The top 15 learners per grade are listed below, being the learners with the highest marks for that grade-specific Olympiad. Where several learners from one school placed in the leading positions, a maximum of three learners per school is listed, so that the table reflects the spread of performance across schools. These learners will receive medals and discounted fees on the digital courses at www.saolympiads.co.za, and those shaded in gold will receive cash prizes.

Grade 1

Position	Name	School
1	Bopape Kano	Nare-Mohlalerwa PS
1	Nsele Kwenzile	Sodwana Bay Private School
2	Libongwe Lelaka	Curro Clayville
2	Lethabo Nethononda	Royal Mount Cosmo
2	Neo Lebesa	Royal Mount Cosmo
2	Gazi Muzahid	Sodwana Bay Private School
2	Zulu Lisakhanya	Sodwana Bay Private School
3	Gontshi Miyolo	Good Shepherd School
3	Gumede Yenzeka	Gratton
3	Imthande Selwane	Hilltop PS
3	Amara Kyd	Maidstone PS
3	Baloyi Tshepho	Nare-Mohlalerwa PS
3	Emily Sibanda	Royal Mount Cosmo
3	Piya Naidoo	St Stithians Junior Preparatory
3	Ziphozonke Mavuso	Yellowwood Park Primary School

Grade 2

Position	Name	School
1	Joshua Boshoff	Drakensberg PS
2	Khepri Mitchell	Eduden
3	Abhay Vummadi	Curro Waterfall
3	Axl de Nobrega	Faithlynn College
3	Azile Hlongwane	Faithlynn College
3	Malibongwe Mkhwanazi	Grantham Park PS
3	Mdaka Ntando	Imizikayifani PS
3	Nathan Janse Van Rensburg	Independent Candidate
3	Shongwe Blessing	Merlin Park
3	Mothibi Kgabo	Nare-Mohlalerwa PS
3	Ryan Sithole	Royal Mount Riverside
3	Ntuntu Bungcwele	St Martin’s Private School
3	Lleyton Kriel	Summerwood
3	Malachi Manjoko	Summerwood
3	Hammaad Laher	The Learning Legacy

Grade 3

Position	Name	School
1	Kunene Njongo Ziphozethu	Curro Vanderbijlpark
1	Ansaar Isaacs	Greenside PS
1	Toluwanimi Fanoro	Greenside PS
2	Ayla Cassim	Curro Douglasdale
2	Matla Nokwazi Rebecca	Curro Vanderbijlpark
2	Inam Omar	Greenside PS
2	Katryn Loots	Laerskool Tygerpoort
2	Pieter Roos	Laerskool Tygerpoort
2	Rune Fouche	Laerskool Tygerpoort
2	Vutlhari Nukeri	Royal Mount Riverside
2	Michael Kavhayi	Silver Creek
2	Oarabile Junior Molwantoa	Silver Creek
2	Bambiso Hluma	Umtata Christian School
2	Gwengu Aiden	Umtata Christian School
2	Jakeni Ivakele	Umtata Christian School

C. Concluding Remarks

An Olympiad exists to find the learners who think well under an unfamiliar question, and to give schools a measure of where their learners stand against the country rather than against one another.

The performance in the 2026 Olympiads has shown encouraging results and is a clear improvement on 2025 across all three grades. Schools should not be disappointed if the results did not meet their expectations. They should rather see this as an opportunity to improve learners in the gaps identified.

The learners listed above will write the National VIAMC Round, to be written online on 31 October 2026. The best learners will qualify for the international round in March 2027, held in Vietnam, and for the South African International Mathematics Olympiad in August 2027.

Past papers and guides are available on **www.saolympiads.co.za** which should help you prepare for the Olympiads.

Digital courses for learners are now available on **www.saolympiads.co.za** as well, provided by our partner the Virtual School of Africa.

D. Important Dates to Diarise

Registration:	Open now at saolympiads.co.za
2026 prices held until:	31 March 2027
Written – 3-term schools:	Last school week before Term 2 closes
Written – 4-term schools:	August 2027, on the published subject dates
National VIAMC round:	31 October 2026, written online
International round, Vietnam:	March 2027
SA International Maths Olympiad:	August 2027

Register and pay before 31 March 2027 to hold 2026 prices – from R35 per learner per subject; every price rises by R5 from 1 April 2027. Papers are emailed to your school one week before the write date.