Mathematics Results

Grades 8 – 12 • 2026 Olympiad

SA Olympiads, in partnership with FEMSSISA, produced the Mathematics Olympiads for grades 8 – 12 in 2026. This report covers the high-school phase; the Foundation and Senior Primary 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 of the Olympiad was approximately 30 300 learners. Grade 12 was the strongest year group by some margin, with 19% of learners achieving silver and fewer than half falling into the participation band. Grade 10 also improved sharply, moving from 82% participation in 2025 to 58% in 2026. Grades 8 and 9 remain the most challenging, with roughly seven in ten learners in the participation band, and Grade 11 was the only grade to go backwards against 2025. At a high level there are key areas of development which need to be addressed in the junior grades. However, 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 8	3%	5%	22%	70%
Grade 9	2%	7%	23%	68%
Grade 10	2%	10%	30%	58%
Grade 11	2%	8%	25%	65%
Grade 12	3%	19%	30%	48%
Overall	**2%**	**9%**	**25%**	**64%**

Table 1

B. Top Learners per Grade

The top 10 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 8

Position	Name	School
1	Mkhefelele Paul	St Martins Private School
2	Mfinci Amahle Iviwe	Libode
3	Sahashra Harinarain	Eden College
4	Suhrit Pitchaimuthu	Kearsney College
4	Humairah Bhoja	The Learning Legacy
5	Yaqeen Dollie	Bergvliet High School
6	Noah Ladu	Newberry House
6	Yahya Junaid Vadia	Zakariyya Muslim School
7	Madison Graver	Forest Academy
7	Matthew Von Maltitz	Waterfall College

Grade 9

Position	Name	School
1	Natalem Haile	St Benedict's College
2	Louis Bosman	Somerset College
2	Abdur Rahman Desai	Zakariyya Muslim School
3	Anwesha Das	Bryanston HS
3	Jim Christie-Smith	Somerset College
3	Mishika Hariprasad	Somerset College
3	Leila Naidoo	St Mary's DSG Kloof
4	Böhmke Charlotte	Danville Park Girls High School
5	Adriella Ibango	Curro Jewel City
6	Mokgotsi Rorisang Gontse	Curro Vanderbijlpark

Grade 10

Position	Name	School
1	Oluhle Nkanini	Chesterville Secondary School
2	Legodi Junior	Graceland
2	Daaruk Kumarasamy	Eden College
3	Nathan Purchase	Bryanston HS
3	Nqcobo Moleboheng	Royal Bafokeng - Tshukudu
4	Lesedi Makgabutlane	Springs Girls High
4	Emma Benade	St Mary's DSG Kloof
4	Jesiah Gabriella Mayadevan	Teneo
5	Luke Francois	New West
6	Shilubane Andries Katlego B	Meridian Combined

Grade 11

Position	Name	School
1	Manana Thabiso	Anton Lembede Maths, Science & Technology Academy
2	Njoli Sizolile	Jongilanga High School
3	Sosibo Nhlanzeko	Anton Lembede Maths, Science & Technology Academy
3	Saanuraaga Viranna	Marist Bros Linmeyer
4	Mayendisa Donald	Advanced College
4	Charles Swedi Baraka	Fairbairn College
4	Bing-Yu Chloe Kuo	Pretoria Chinese School
5	Naidu Karissa	Danville Park Girls High School
5	Sophie Jewaskiewitz	St Mary's DSG Kloof
6	Anozie David	Umtata Christian School

Grade 12

Position	Name	School
1	Shaqeel Petersen-Bizaare	Protea Heights Academy
2	Ethan Kuo	Independent Candidate
2	Phililе Dube	Independent Candidate
3	Thalente Makhanya	Adams College
3	Madondo Unami	Sisekelo HS
4	Kashvir Dukhan	Bryanston HS
4	Majikija Esam Teller	Durban Girls' Secondary School
4	Allison Sturgess	Independent Candidate
4	Yujie Zhuang	Independent Candidate
4	Zhi Chen	St Benedict's College

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 an improvement on 2025 in four of the five 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.