

## Self Study Recommendations

The best preparation for a math contest is to work similar contest problems. The MATHCOUNTS Handbook is a good source of problems.

The MATHCOUNTS Handbook and the prior year competition problems and solutions are posted on the MATHCOUNTS web site. Download and save these pdf files, because they will vanish each year off the web site, to be replaced with those for the next year.

There are good instructional books with contest problems related to the instruction. The best source is the Art of Problem Solving. For a single book, get Competition Math for Middle School, by J. Batterson.

Also, get M. Crawford's Introduction to Number Theory, and D. Patrick's Introduction to Counting & Probability. These two books cover topics that are often not covered in Middle School classrooms, but that do come up in MATHCOUNTS contests.

The Art of Problem Solving, Volume 1: the Basics, by Lehoczky and Rusczyk is a bridge between middle school and high school contest problems – some chapters relevant to middle school contests, and other chapters appropriate only for high school.