

Date: January 2, 2019  
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### **CALENDAR ADVISORY**

## **MAY 4: Free National Math Festival Comes to DC to Inspire, Excite, and Inform that Math is Everywhere** ***Top-Notch Speakers and Hands-On Activities Engage Young and Old***

### **WHAT**

Attendees of all ages can explore playful and accessible lectures and fun activities on the math behind how the world works at the 2019 National Math Festival, which is free and open to the public. The daylong, experiential event features creative short films, math-inspired dance and musical performances, a magic show, team sports challenges, hands-on art making, puzzles, games, demos, fascinating presenters, and more. Topics range from pro football to music, art, dating, cryptography, planet earth, and data. The festival is organized by the [Mathematical Sciences Research Institute \(MSRI\)](#) in cooperation with the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) and the National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath).

### **WHEN**

May 4, 2019, 10am-4pm (Note: May 3: [School Preview Day](#) for media and schools)

### **SELECT HIGHLIGHTS**

- *Math Celebrities*: Leading mathematicians and math-related superstars, including:
  - [John Urschel](#), MIT Ph.D. candidate in mathematics and former Baltimore Ravens NFL offensive lineman, who will present on the physics of football and geometry of chess
  - Dr. Marcus du Sautoy, Oxford University Mathematics professor, author, and BBC host
  - Dr. Holly Krieger, University of Cambridge Mathematics fellow and popular guest on the YouTube channel Numberphile
- *Dance of the Diagram*—performed by the NYC-based dance company BARKIN/SELISSEN PROJECT, is a piece commissioned by celebrated mathematician Dr. James Simons and inspired by specific sequences and patterns on a hexagonal diagram
- *Featured Activities*—Short films, Mathical Book Prize author readings, and a giant Fibonacci-shaped spiral of make-and-take and take-home resource stations for all ages
- *National Flagway™ Tournament*—middle school players and coaches (high school mentors) from across the country participate in competition that combines speed, athleticism, and precision with the mastery of mathematics

### **WHERE**

Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt Vernon Place NW, D.C.

### **WHY**

Math is everywhere and part of all facets of everyday life. Through the National Math Festival, MSRI strives to make math accessible and exciting to those outside of the field. Located in Berkeley, California, MSRI is one of the world's preeminent centers for collaborative research in mathematics and works to advance mathematical research, foster talent, and further the appreciation of mathematics.

### **HOW**

The event is free and open to the public. More information at: [www.nationalmathfestival.org](http://www.nationalmathfestival.org). Reporters interested in covering should contact Shawn Flaherty at 703-554-3609.