



5th GRADE MATH OLYMPIAD 2016

Training: Monday and Thursday mornings from 7:50am to 8:50am

Training begins **January 7, 2016**

Competition Day: Saturday, May 7, 2016 (attendance required/ location TBD)

Teachers: Sr. and Sra. Mattson mattsonk@bsd405.org, mattsonc@bsd405.org

Parent Co-chairs: Rebecca Nord and Krista Capodanno
matholympiad@puestadelsolpta.org

What is Math Olympiad?

The Washington State Middle School Math Olympiad is an **advanced-level**, state-wide, middle school **math competition** for students in grades 5-8. **Teams of 3 or 4** compete to gain as many points as possible across six components: a long session problem, and five short session problems in the content areas: Number Sense, Probability and Statistics, Measurement, Geometric Sense, and Algebraic Sense. A record of each team's achievement is commemorated on a Math Olympiad Certificate. Teams take home contest memorabilia, their team certificate, their work for later review, and the overall results for the site where they competed.

Where is the May 2nd Math Olympiad Competition?

The competition is held at multiple locations state-wide on the same date. We will compete somewhere in Seattle or on the Eastside. **Attending the competition is mandatory out of respect for the team members. If we don't have the minimum number of members on the team, the team will get disqualified. Therefore, all students selected for Math Olympiad must attend the competition on May 7, 2016.**

Who may participate and how do I register?

Math Olympiad is open to 5th grade student at Puesta del Sol. However, there are a limited number of spots available. In order to give all interested 5th graders an equal opportunity to participate in Math Olympiad, there is a mandatory application. **The application must be filled out by the student in their own handwriting and submitted, along with the signed citizenship contract and registration form, by Tuesday, December 8. No late applications will be accepted.** In addition to the application, all participants must attend all practice sessions, complete a weekly homework packet (3-5 pages long), as well as keep up with their regular 5th grade classroom math homework. Parents will be notified via email by December 14 of acceptance into Math Olympiad.

Because Math Olympiad material is **above** the 5th grade math level and is a competition team, please have your student consider their current math aptitude before applying. Will they enjoy the extra homework? Will they thrive under the pressure of a competition? Do they enjoy competing with a team? Do they finish their regular math homework with little to no assistance? Answering these questions honestly together will help determine if this is the right activity for your student.

What is the cost?

The cost is \$100 (checks made out to Puesta del Sol PTA). In the case of financial need, PTA Scholarships are available. Please contact the Puesta del Sol PTA Treasurer for confidential scholarship information (treasurer@puestadelsolpta.org). **Payment will not be due until selected students have been notified.** Students will be notified by December 14, 2015 and payment is due by December 18, 2015. **Tuition is non-refundable.** For non-scholarship related tuition questions, please contact one of the Math Olympiad chairpersons (matholympiad@puestadelsolpta.org).

When and where will Math Olympiad practices occur?

The Math Olympiad classes will be held twice a week, on **Monday** and **Thursday** mornings **from 8:00-8:50am** in Sra. Mattson's classroom 200. Class will begin at 8:00am sharp! Students must be on time and prepared with their Math Olympiad binder (provided) 2 pencils, an eraser, and the completed homework packet from the previous session. Homework is to be turned in at the **beginning of class** to the parent grader at 7:50am. Practices begin on Thursday, January 7, 2016. A calendar of practice sessions will be provided.

What is a Math Olympiad practice like?

Typically each class session has one handout. The handout is broken out into 3 sections: **Section 1** deals with content covering the math concept and how it works; **Section 2** is In Class Exercises. **Section 3** is Homework. Sections 1 and 2 are covered in the morning class. The training is very fast paced, so the student needs to be able to keep up. **The student is responsible for completing Section 3-Homework and turning it in at the next class.**

What is the homework policy?

Homework is necessary for students to demonstrate understanding of the material and to practice new concepts. Homework will be graded each session by parent volunteers and returned to the student. **Corrections must be made to any homework assignment below 80%** and returned to the parent volunteer at the **next practice session** to ensure that the student understands the concept. Parents, please sign the 1st page of your child's homework so that the teacher knows you have reviewed the work with your child. If students are **consistently earning below 80% on their homework**, Sr. and Sra. Mattson will meet with the student and parent to re-evaluate the student's participation on the competition team.

How can I help my child?

Encourage them from January to May! Help them to stay on-top of their homework and not get behind. Make sure they are **on time** for the morning classes. Please help your student remember that this is a team competition and each member has a specific job. Missing practices will hurt their whole team and must be avoided as much as possible. Please plan to commit to making each practice for the entire season. If more than 2 practices are unexcused absences, then student participation in the competition will be re-evaluated. We suggest the parent and child go over the first few problems in the homework section to be sure the concept is understood. Lastly, after they have completed the homework section, review their work to make sure they understand the concept and that they **have showed their work**. If they do not understand the concept, it is helpful to review Section 1 with them. It is our hope that Math Olympiad will develop a lifelong appreciation for math and for team participation. Your support in making this a fun activity is greatly appreciated.

How can I volunteer?

- First help your student. Please help review their homework and go over any problems or concepts they do not understand.

We will need volunteers to help with the following activities:

- **Homework grading:** (Mondays & Thursday mornings) Answer key is provided. Please specify on the registration form which day(s) you are able to help correct homework and then sign-up on signupgenius.
- **Pod Supervision:** Parents to supervise the students **before class begins and while they enter the pods** to put away their things to make certain they are **quiet and respectful** of teachers who are at school early and working. Parents are also needed at the **end of Math Olympiad class** to make sure the students go back outside and line up until the bell rings at 9:00am.
- **Competition Volunteers:** About 20 adult volunteers will be needed for the May 7nd competition day. One-two parents per team to be chaperones, room proctors, lunch organizers, graders or for data input on the competition day.

THANK YOU!! We are looking forward to a fun and productive Math Olympiad season!

IMPORTANT DATES:

December 8, 2015: Application, Registration Form and Citizenship Contract due to Sra. Mattson.

December 14, 2015: Students notified of participation via parent email

December 18, 2015: \$100 tuition due to PTA payment box in front office or online

January 7, 2016: Training begins

May 7, 2016: Math Olympiad Competition