Club Format and Schedule

Pine Lake Middle School’s ASB program sponsors our Math Club, which is open to all students who have an interest in a mathematical challenge outside the classroom. The format of the club will be slightly different this year. Over the past few years, we have noticed that some of our club members prefer to work and compete with teams, while others are primarily interested in the individual contests we’ve offered. We’ve also found that it’s hard for coaches meet the needs of students with 70+ kids in the room! So this year, we will be splitting the club into two main groups. Here’s how it will work:

- The entire club will meet weekly beginning the week of 10/6. The year will begin with all interested kids meeting on Tuesdays after school from 2:15-3:30 in the multi-purpose room. These first meetings will be for coaches to talk about the different competitions, the structure of the club, rules and expectations, and to go over some sample competition tests & questions.

- On October 27, a tryout will be held for the kids who are interested in being considered for the Fall/early Winter team competitions. We are planning on 2-3 teams per grade, depending on interest and the number of coaches. In the new calendar year we will hold another tryout for students who are interested in being on a competitive team for the late winter/Spring competitions. This will allow students a second access point to enter competitions. Team competitions we typically go to include Knights of Pi, Math is Cool, and the Blaine Math Championships.

- For kids who aren't interested in team competitions, or who don't make the teams, we will continue to have separate math club meetings on Tuesday 2:15-3:30 to work on interesting problems, learn new concepts, and prepare for individual competitions. Team alternates will also be chosen from this pool of kids, if needed.

- All kids in the club, whether or not they’re on the teams, will be invited to participate in all of the in-class competitions. These include contests like the AMC8, MOEMS, and the school Mathcounts competition.

Regular attendance is very important! We will keep track of which students show up each week, and good attendance will be required to be on a team or to be considered as an alternate. Students will need to participate in the after-school meetings to compete for the school.

In order to run the club effectively, we will need parent help! We anticipate a large number of students therefore we will need adequate adult support. We are asking that all of our volunteers be in place by the last week of October. If we do not have enough adult support we will need to restructure the club and cap membership at 32. The focus of the club in this scenario would be to offer only the in-class competitions this year.

Depending on the comfort level, parent volunteers will support coaches or take a more active role in each session. Parent volunteering will begin the week of October 20th and will end the week of March 28th. You can sign up at volunteerspot.com (please watch for an email with instructions!).

Please have your child bring his or her Registration Form and Conduct Agreement to our first meeting on Oct 6, 2015, and watch your email for further updates regarding volunteering and competitions. Thank you in advance for all your time and effort in helping to make this club possible. We’re looking forward to an exciting and productive year!
The current PLMS Mathletes budget will partially cover the planned competitions for all club members. A club fee of $30 will be collected to cover the shortfall. Please pay online at https://web.issaquah.wednet.edu/touchbase/ (login and click on Math Club) or make your check payable to “Pine Lake Middle School” and send it in with your student to the school bookkeeper. If the club fee is a hardship for anyone, please contact Mrs. Bordeanu for scholarship information.

Kind regards,

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Onsite Competitions available to all club members:

**Online Math Olympiad (November, 2015 – March, 2016)**
The online Math Olympiad is a series of 5-question individual exams given once per month during club practice from November through March. Students compete for both individual and school awards. (http://www.moems.org/program.htm)

**AMC8 (American Mathematics Contest – Tuesday, November 17, 2015)**
This is a 25-question, 40-minute test taken during regular club practice on Tuesday, November 17th. Everyone in the PLMS Math Club will be able to participate. Students who perform well on this exam will be invited to participate in the AMC10 (held during club time on Tuesday, February 2nd) which can lead to the national Math Olympiad team. (www.maa.org/math-competitions)

**Mathcounts (January through May, 2016)**
PLMS will be able to send one team of four, plus six individual competitors, to the regional competition in February. These ten students will be determined by the results of our school competition to be held on January 12th. The school competition will be open to all club members. Top scoring teams of the regional competition will advance to the state competition in March, and possibly the national Mathcounts competition in May in Washington, DC! (www.mathcounts.org)

Offsite Team Competitions:

**Math Is Cool (November 14th, 2015 & February 19th, 2016)**
All 7th & 8th graders compete on 11/14/2015, and all 6th graders on 2/19/2016. If the teams do well at the regional competitions, the top four competitors in each grade will move on to the state competitions on 12/5/2015 and 5/21/2016, respectively. (www.academicsarecool.com)

**Knights of Pi (December 12, 2015)**
This competition is put on by the Newport Math Club in Bellevue for students in grades 5-8. Students participate in both individual and team tests, plus have the opportunity to participate in other challenges, such as math relays and reciting digits of pi. (www.newportmathclub.org/kpmt/)

**Washington State Math Championships (March, 2016)**
The WSMC is an annual competition held in Blaine, WA. Schools from all over the state of Washington gather together to compete in mathematics. (www.blainesd.org/mathchamps/middle_school/Home.html)

We may choose to add other onsite or offsite competitions, depending on budget and interest.