

1 Welcome Letter

Dear Math Team Coaches and Students,

You are cordially invited to attend the eleventh annual James S. Rickards Fall Invitational Mathematics Competition, to be held on **November 12, 2016**. The Rickards Invitational is one of the largest competitions in the Southeast, with over 800 participants from 35 elementary, middle, and high schools last year.

We encourage all elementary schools to participate, regardless of whether they currently have math teams. We hope that this competition will inspire students to pursue the study of mathematics and will be an enjoyable experience for all who attend. It is our goal to ensure error-free and high-quality tests and to make the competition run as smoothly as possible.

Registration may be completed online at **www.rickardsinvitational.org**. The fee is \$10 per student and must be postmarked by Wednesday, November 2. Late registration will be available until Sunday, November 6, and will be \$15 per student. Registration will be closed the week of the competition. We strongly urge you to pay your registration fees on time to guarantee that there is enough room for competition events and that there are an adequate number of tests to accommodate the participants. On the day of the competition, sponsors will sign-in their teams in the Rickards media center and the first testing session will begin at 9:00 a.m. A complete schedule of events is attached.

To prepare you for competition events, the rules guiding our invitational are detailed in this Competition Handbook. Calculators will not be permitted on any test. We will have individual tests for fourth and fifth grade, and a team round in which fourth and fifth graders will be divided in competition and awards. Please see the Competition Handbook for further details.

If you have any questions, please contact us at **rickardsinvitational@gmail.com**. We look forward to your participation at our Invitational.

Sincerely,

Jessica Pickett
Math Team Sponsor

Kyle Chen
Math Team President

2 Competition Format/Events

Eligibility

All students must compete in the test for their specific grade. Ambitious third graders are welcome to participate in the fourth grade division.

Individual Tests

The competition will consist of an Individual Round for each division (Fourth Grade and Fifth Grade). There will be 30 multiple choice questions on each test, and students will have one hour to complete the problems. Scoring is +5 points for each correct answer, 0 points for each incorrect answer, and 1 point for a question left blank. Any ties will be broken using a sudden death method where correct answers trump blank answers which then trump incorrect answers. For past tests, please visit the Rickards Invitational website.

Team Round

This year we will have a Team Round for fourth and fifth graders. The Team Round will be administered to teams of 4; these teams must contain only one grade (that is, fourth and fifth graders will be separated). The Team Round will consist of 15 short response questions to be completed in 30 minutes. These questions will be arranged in increasing difficulty, and point values will be associated with different questions. The first four questions will be 2 points each and the easiest questions. Likewise, the next four questions will be 3 points each, the next set of questions 4 points each, and finally, the last three questions will be 5 points each.

Scores will be determined by adding the corresponding point values of questions answered correctly. There will be no penalty for incorrect responses. Ties will be broken on the basis of difficulty of questions. The number of correct 5 point questions will be compared; if a tie still remains, the number of correct 4 points questions will be compared, and so on. If a tie still remains after this, the sudden death method used for individual tests will be used.

We ask this year that sponsors choose their teams beforehand. If you have extra students, please let us know at rickardsinvitational@gmail.com, so we can form alternate teams.

3 Awards

A breakdown of the awards given is given below:

Individual Tests

Awards will be given to the top 15 competitors in each individual test (fourth and fifth grades).

Team Awards

Awards will be given to the top 5 teams among fourth grade teams and the top 5 teams among the fifth grade teams in the Team Round, and small awards will also be given to each of the team members.

4 Preliminary Schedule

Please note that this is a preliminary schedule of events, and is subject to small changes prior to November 12th. An official schedule of events, complete with room numbers/event locations, will be distributed in the competition program on the morning of the competition. Any updates prior to November 12th will be posted on the Invitational website.

- 8:00–8:45 A.M. Registration (Rickards Media Center)
- 9:00–10:30 A.M. **Round 1 Testing**
Individual Tests: Fourth and Fifth Grade
- 10:30–10:50 A.M. Disputes
- 11:00–11:45 P.M. **Round 2 Testing**
Team Rounds: Fourth and Fifth Grade
- 11:45–1:15 P.M. Lunch
- 1:45–2:15 P.M. Award Ceremony (Auditorium)

5 Registration

Registration may be completed online at www.rickardsinvitational.org. The fee is \$10 per student and is to be postmarked by Wednesday, November 2, 2016. Schools that pay after the deadline but by November 6, 2016 will be charged \$15 per student. Registration will be closed the week of the Invitational. We strongly urge you to pay your registration fees on time to guarantee that there is enough room for competition events and that there are an adequate number of tests to accommodate the participants. Once you complete registration, you will receive a confirmation email within 48 hours that details how to pay your registration fees, as well as any other details that need to be addressed.

We will be assigning ID numbers for each of your students after you register online with a list of students competing. We will also be bubbling in the scantrons for your students. Each of your students will be assigned to a classroom to take the test. When you arrive on the morning of November 12th, you can sign-in your school in the Media Center, where you will be given the room assignments.

We hope to see everyone November 12th! Thank you.