

1 Welcome Letter

Dear Math Team Sponsors, Coaches and Students,

You are cordially invited to attend the fifteenth annual James S. Rickards Fall Invitational, a mathematics competition to be held on **Saturday, November 21, 2020**. The Rickards Invitational is one of the largest competitions in the Southeast, with over 1,000 competitors from 49 elementary, middle, and high schools last year. This year will be the first ever virtual conduction of the Invitational.

The COVID-19 pandemic has halted and changed the way the world operates in a matter of months. Through these chaotic times, we feel it is as, if not more, important than ever to continue to foster the math competition culture. In our efforts to emulate our typical competition format, ensuring the preparations of students are not drastically changed, we have been forced to modify our traditional procedures. Unfortunately, this year's competition will **only be available for middle and high school** students. Please read the **Competition Format** section for the updated virtual format.

We encourage all middle and high schools to participate, regardless of whether or not they currently have math teams or Mu Alpha Theta chapters. To attract a variety of participants and familiarize new teams with mathematics competitions, we will incorporate the structure and rules of a standard Florida Association of Mu Alpha Theta (FAMAT) Invitational. We hope that this competition will inspire students to pursue the study of mathematics and motivate them to work hard for the upcoming mathematics competition season. It is our goal to ensure the competition runs as smoothly as possible and is an enriching experience for all students.

Registration may be completed online at **www.rickardsinvitational.org** by **Monday, November 16th**. The fee is \$6 per student and we ask that you have your payment mailed to us by due **Thursday, November 19th**. Late registration will not be available this year as it has in the past. We urge you to register as soon as possible to guarantee that there is enough time for us to update our records, take inventory, and accommodate participants. In years prior, we have used the FAMAT registrations for details, but with the new format we ask you carefully read the eligibility section of the handbook for specifics on necessary student details. Upon registration, you will receive an invoice within 48 hours which must be paid prior to the day of the competition.

To prepare you for competition events, the rules for our invitational are detailed in this Competition Handbook. In general, rules are in accordance with standard FAMAT policies. Calculators will not be permitted on any test, except for Statistics Individual. We will have Individual tests only for the Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Precalculus, Statistics, and Calculus divisions. Please kindly read the **rest of the competition handbook** for details on the new procedure and scheduling.

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

Sincerely,

Rachael Cross
Math Team Sponsor

Rohan Davidi
Lead Director

2 Competition Format

This year's competition will consist only of the Individual Round - there will be no Team/Open round.

Eligibility

All students will compete in their respective Mu Alpha Theta divisions for the 2020-2021 school year (Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Precalculus, Statistics or Calculus). If a student does not participate in Mu Alpha Theta, he or she will compete in the division corresponding to his or her current math class. If you are not sure which division a student may compete in, please see the FAMAT Sponsor's Guide at

<http://floridamao.org/PublicPages/Downloads.aspx>.

This year's virtual format also requires that the student has access to the following: **a Gmail account, computer with camera, and either Chrome or Firefox.**

Individual Tests

There will be an Individual round for each division (Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Precalculus, Statistics, and Calculus). The Individual tests will consist of 30 multiple choice questions and an allotted testing period of one hour. The scoring is +4 points for each correct answer, -1 point for each incorrect answer, and 0 points for a question left blank. Any ties will be broken using the sudden death method (beginning at Question 1) where correct answers trump blank answers which then trump incorrect answers. Past tests are available for download at the Rickards Invitational website: www.rickardsinvitational.org.

Virtual Test Administration

This year's competition will be conducted using the **Mettl.com** platform. The day prior to the competition, sponsors and students will be sent a spreadsheet including the Google Meeting links and detailing which students are to join which Google Meeting. This year's online registration asks sponsors to provide the Gmails of their competing students. Students will only be allowed to enter with their listed Gmail.

Upon entry into the meeting, attendance will be taken and each student will be asked to show their nearby surroundings and adjust their camera such that their entire upper body is visible. From this point onward, all cameras and microphones must be turned on. We kindly ask all students have a quiet place to take the examination, but students will also be allowed to lower their volume to ensure disturbance outside of proctoring instructions are not excessively audible.

Following attendance, access to the test will be granted. Access will be given out via a private access email from the Mettl.com software. Students will be asked to open their emails and click the link sent to them and close their emails. From this point onward, the Mettl platform will direct the student to provide registration information and add a Chrome/Firefox extension which is used to track their screen during the examination. After this, the students will arrive to an exam launching page. At this point in time, all other tabs and applications must be closed. The students will be asked to wait for their proctor's signal to launch the exam.

Once all students have reached this stage, the exam will be launched. Students may not, for any reason, navigate away from the testing screen. If they have any questions, they will be asked to physically raise their hands and wait to be recognized. The Mettl software will flag any suspicious behavior including but not limited to: switching screens, a phone appearing on screen, another person appearing in your surroundings, etc. We understand this is new to everyone, so all flags generated will be cross verified before any action of invalidation is taken.

Once all members of the meeting have reached the end of the 1 hour testing period, students will be read and shown the answers to their examination. Students will not have access to their taken test, so if a student wishes to check their answers at this point, they must have written their answers down. After the answers have been read, an online dispute form will be sent for a 15 minute period of dispute filing. After this period is up and all other meetings have concluded administration, students will be allowed to exit the meeting.

3 Awards and Sweepstakes

A breakdown of the awards given is given below:

Individual Tests

Awards will be given to the top 20 competitors in each Individual test. Awards will be mailed in the week following the result announcement.

Middle School Sweepstakes

Sweepstakes awards will be given to the top 3 middle schools, as determined by summing the T-scores from the top 4 individuals in each Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, and Geometry (or Algebra II, if a school has no Geometry team) divisions of each school.

High School Sweepstakes

Sweepstakes awards will be given to the top 5 high schools, as determined by adding the top 4 T-scores from the Geometry, Algebra II, Precalculus, Statistics and Calculus divisions of each school. Each divisions T-score will be computed as a sum of the T-scores of the top 4 individuals in each division.

NOTE: Sweepstakes specifics are subject to slight modifications as they will not be incorporating team round scores as they typically would.

4 Preliminary Schedule

Please note that this is a preliminary schedule of events, and is subject to small changes prior to competition day. An official schedule of events, complete with meeting links and meeting assignments, will be distributed on the day prior to the competition. Any updates prior to competition day will be posted on the Invitational website: www.rickardsinvitational.org.

Friday (11/20) **Links & Assignments**

Sponsors will receive an email containing a spreadsheet of meetings room links and students assigned to each room, which they should distribute to their students.

Saturday (11/21)

8:15 – 8:25 AM **Round 1 Preparation**

Round 1 students should be in their designated online testing rooms at this time.

8:30 – 10:00 AM **Round 1 Testing**

Individual Tests: Geometry, Algebra II

10:45 – 10:55 AM **Round 2 Preparation**

Round 2 students should be in their designated online testing rooms at this time.

11:00 – 12:30 PM **Round 2 Testing**

Individual Tests: Algebra I, Precalculus

1:45 – 1:55 PM **Round 3 Preparation**

Round 3 students should be in their designated online testing rooms at this time.

2:00 – 3:30 PM **Round 3 Testing**

Individual Tests: Pre-Algebra, Statistics

4:15 – 4:25 PM **Round 4 Preparation**

Round 4 students should be in their designated online testing rooms at this time.

4:30 – 6:00 PM **Round 4 Testing**

Individual Tests: Calculus

Monday (11/23) **Awards Ceremony*****

Awards livestream will be scheduled and presented.

NOTE: Official details and confirmation for an Awards livestream will be given leading up to the competition. Currently, this is only a possibility.

Monday (11/23) **Results**

Results will be posted at <https://www.rickardsinvitational.org/results.htm>

5 Registration

The registration cost is \$6 per student. Other details are included in Section 1. Online Registration must be completed by **Monday, November 16th**. Once you complete registration, you will receive a confirmation email within 48 hours that holds an invoice, details on how to pay your registration fees, and any other details that need to be addressed. We ask that you mail your payments by **Thursday, November 19th** so that we are able to adjust our room assignments of students accordingly.

In years prior, FAMAT IDs were utilized in order to process results from scantron responses. However, this year, the online format requires each student to have a Gmail in order to enter our meetings. For the purposes of attendance, allowing entry into meetings, and providing students access to the virtual examination portal, we ask you provide the **name and email** of each student. The field for this is included in the online registration.

On the day prior (Friday, November 20th), sponsors will receive an email with a spreadsheet, which will include the meeting links and names of students in each round, meeting.

We hope to see everyone on November 21st! Thank you.