

1 Welcome Letter

Dear Math Team Sponsors, Coaches, and Students,

You are cordially invited to attend the sixteenth annual James S. Rickards Fall Invitational, a mathematics competition to be held on **Saturday, November 20, 2021**. The Rickards Invitational is one of the largest competitions in the Southeast with over 1000 competitors from over 45 elementary, middle, and high schools in previous years.

We encourage all elementary schools to participate, regardless of whether or not 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 standard to write and administer error-free and high-quality tests and our aim to host this competition as effectively and appropriately as possible.

Registration may be completed online at **www.rickardsinvitational.org**. The fee is \$10 per student until Friday, November 5th. Late registration will be available until Friday, November 12th and will be \$15 per student. We strongly urge you to register by the regular deadline to guarantee that there is enough time for hosts to update their records, take inventory, and accommodate participants. On the day of the competition, sponsors will sign-in their teams at Rickards Auditorium and the first testing session will begin at 9:30 AM. 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 one Individual test for Fourth and Fifth Grade with fourth and fifth-graders divided in competition and awards, as well as an individual Open Round with competition between both grades. Please see Section 2 for more details.

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

Dylan Epstein-Gross
Math Team President

2 Competition Format/Events

Eligibility

All students must compete in the division 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 test for all elementary-schoolers. There will be 30 multiple choice questions on the 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 (beginning at Question 1) where correct answers trump blank answers which then trump incorrect answers. For past tests, please visit the Rickards Invitational website: www.rickardsinvitational.org.

Open Round

All fourth and fifth graders will participate in an Open Round. The Open Round is also administered individually, and will consist of 15 short response questions to be completed in 1 hour. These questions will be arranged in increasing difficulty, and point values will be associated with different questions.

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.

3 Awards

A breakdown of the awards given is presented below:

Individual Test

Awards will be given to the top 10 competitors in fourth grade or below, and the top 10 competitors in fifth grade.

Open Test

Awards will be given to the top 15 competitors in fourth and fifth grade combined.

4 Preliminary Schedule

Please note that this is a preliminary schedule of events and is subject to small changes prior to Saturday, November 20th. 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 20th will be posted on the Invitational website.

8:00 – 8:45 AM	Registration (Rickards Auditorium)
8:45 – 9:15 AM	Scantron Preparation (Rickards Auditorium)
9:30 – 11:00 AM	Round 1 Testing
	Individual Test
11:15 AM – 12:45 PM	Round 2 Testing
	Open Round
8:00 AM on Sunday	Tests, answer keys, solutions, and dispute forms posted on website
11:59 PM on Sunday	Dispute forms due

Note that, unlike most years of the invitational, there will be no lunch or in-person award ceremony this year due to COVID concerns. An award ceremony will be posted virtually a little while after the competition, and awards will be mailed out to participating schools. More information about the timing of the award ceremony will be given closer to the competition.

5 Registration

Registration may be completed online at www.rickardsinvitational.org. The fee is \$10 per student and must be submitted by Friday November 12th. Once you complete registration, you will receive a confirmation email within a few days that holds an invoice, details on how to pay your registration fees, and 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 Individual and Open tests. When you arrive on the morning of November 20th, you can sign-in your school in the Auditorium, where you will be given a packet with scantrons and room assignments.

We hope to see you on November 20th! Thank you.