

# 1 Welcome Letter

Dear Math Team Sponsors, Coaches, and Students,

You are cordially invited to attend the fourteenth annual James S. Rickards Fall Invitational, a mathematics competition to be held on **Saturday, November 16, 2019**. The Rickards Invitational is one of the largest competitions in the Southeast with nearly 900 competitors from 42 elementary, middle, and high schools last year.

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](http://www.rickardsinvitational.org)**. The fee is \$10 per student until Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Late registration will be available until Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> 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 in at Rickards Media Center and the first testing session will begin at 9:00 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 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 Section 2 for more details.

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

Sincerely,

Rachael Cross  
Math Team Sponsor

Tanvi Haldiya  
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 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 (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](http://www.rickardsinvitational.org).

### Team Round

All fourth and fifth graders will participate in a Team Round. 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 four 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. Please create as many 4 person teams as possible, and only create a team of less than 4 students if necessary.

## 3 Awards

A breakdown of the awards given is presented below:

### Individual Tests

Awards will be given to the top 15 competitors in each Individual test (Fourth and Fifth Grade).

### 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 member of a ranking team.

## 4 Preliminary Schedule

*Please note that this is a preliminary schedule of events and is subject to small changes prior to Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. 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 16<sup>th</sup> will be posted on the Invitational website.*

8:00 – 8:45 AM	Registration (Rickards Media Center)
8:45 – 9:15 AM	Scantron Preparation (Rickards Media Center)
9:30 – 11:00 AM	<b>Round 1 Testing</b> Individual Tests: Fourth and Fifth Grade
11:00 – 11:20 AM	Disputes
11:30 – 12:15 AM	<b>Round 2 Testing</b> Team Rounds: Fourth and Fifth Grade
12:15 AM – 1:45 PM	Lunch
2:15 – 2:45 PM	Award Ceremony (Auditorium)

## 5 Registration

Registration may be completed online at [www.rickardsinvitational.org](http://www.rickardsinvitational.org). The fee is \$10 per student until the November 11<sup>th</sup> deadline. Schools that pay after the deadline but by November 13<sup>th</sup> will be charged \$15 per student. Once again, 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 the participants. 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 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 test. When you arrive on the morning of November 10<sup>th</sup>, you can sign-in your school in the Media Center, where you will be given a packet with scantrons and room assignments.

We hope to see you on November 16<sup>th</sup>! Thank you.