

# MATH TEAM FAQs

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## **BASICS**

### **WHAT**

- Math as a Competitive Team Sport
- Learn and practice math skills and problem solving strategies
- Compete to win (trophies, medals)
- Like a sports team, encourages development of each team member, cooperation, teamwork
- A different way for kids to excel and build self confidence
- Success at difficult challenges builds confidence and self-esteem

### **WHY**

- Team Work
- Problem Solving Skills
- Competition as Incentive

### **WHO**

- Elementary Grades 4 through 6
- Middle School Grades 6 through 8
- High School
- Creating a Team – ask teachers, friends
- Coaches – parents, teachers, older students

### **WHEN**

- Weekly Practices
- Practice season – September through January
- Competition season – February through May

### **WHERE**

- School
- Homes
- Fire Stations

### **COSTS**

- \$40 to \$80 per team per contest
- Extras (copying, Tshirts, snacks)

## **TIPS AND TRICKS**

### **DOs**

- Inform teachers and principals
- Have snacks
- Allow socializing time
- Make it fun
- Play games
- Solicit parental support

### **DON'Ts**

- Allow intimidation/bragging
- Let group get too large

### **IDEAS FOR PRACTICES**

- Review Homework
- Short Lesson
- Team Problem Sets (old contests)
- Games (Krypto, Set, Sudoku)

### **IDEAS FOR COMPETITIONS**

- Assign team captain
- Work problems in pairs, one pair top to bottom, one bottom to top

## **STUDY RESOURCE IDEAS**

- ArtOfProblemSolving.com Sells textbooks for gifted math learners and offers on-line math courses
- Highline School District. An enrichment curriculum designed for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Website: <http://home.blarg.net/~math/>
- MATHCOUNTS This program provides a new set of problems called Warmups and Workouts each year, designed to prepare students for the competition. Many of the problems are multistep and can be solved in a variety of ways; all are well written and edited. These problems are best for use in second or third year of math club study. Website: <http://mathcounts.org>
- Practice tests for most of the competitions are available on their respective websites.