

NEWSLETTER

VOL 39 NO. 2

MIDDLE / JR HIGH SCHOOL

Σ SIGMA

2017 - 2018

MATHEMATICS LEAGUE

NEXT CONTEST DATE:

December 4—8

WELCOME: Thank you to all of you sponsors who are willing to take on the extra work of conducting the SIGMA competition within your school. No doubt most, if not all, of you are doing it for no monetary compensation but you simply love to have students involved in problem-solving activities. We thank you for being part of the SIGMA competition this year. Some of you have large schools and some of you have small schools. Therefore, competition may not be as important as gaining problem solving skills. You might want to establish your own competition such as competition within the classroom, competition with other classrooms or any other internal competition.

SUGGESTION: You will need to keep a cumulative score sheet for each student. To do this you might set up a spreadsheet with one column for student names and columns for each of the five contests. You could then have a column which sums the scores for each student after each contest.

CUMULATIVE SCORES REPORT: Use the attached sheet for cumulative scores to indicate high scoring individuals whose cumulative scores at the end of contest #2 are as indicated below. This form is used for all schools and, therefore, designed to be used for those reporting scores for grades 6, 7 and 8 or grades 7, 8 and 9. Therefore be sure to circle the grade level at the top of each column. Instead of sending just half a sheet as we did in previous years, a whole sheet is being sent.

REPORT INDIVIDUAL CUMULATIVE SCORES OF 13 OR ABOVE—GRADES 6, 7, 8 AND 9.

NEXT NEWSLETTER: The next newsletter will contain a listing of contest #2 and cumulative scores for all schools and the top 20 schools in divisions 2 and 3 and in each of the grades 6, 7, 8 and 9.

WORD OF CAUTION: We want ALL students in SIGMA to participate under very similar situations. For that reason no questions should be answered during the competition by the teacher/sponsor and certainly no “prepping” for a particular SIGMA contest. Please DO NOT do problems that are similar to SIGMA problems a day or two before the competition. That gives your students an unfair advantage. The integrity of contest leagues depends solely on the integrity of the sponsors and students. Since we have the best sponsors in the world we want ALL students to have equal opportunities “to shine”.

INDIVIDUAL PERFECT SCORES ON CONTEST #1

6 TH Grade	18	8 TH Grade	31
7 TH Grade	58	9 TH grade	4

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	6,984	1,975	Grade 6
CONTEST #1		2,315	Grade 7
		2,492	Grade 8
		202	Grade 9

NOTICE: We may have sent you an e-mail and you have indicated that you did not receive one. If so, do you have a filter (block) on received e-mails or e-mails with attachments? If this occurs again, check your junk mail and/or your spam folder. Discuss this with your technology technician.

NOTE: The dates for contest 5 are earlier this year. The previous dates were rather close to the end of the school year. Getting information and awards out before students leave for the summer has been somewhat of a problem for some of the schools.

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***A BORING LITTLE MAGIC SQUARE THAT BECOMES INTERESTING**

5	22	18
28	15	2
12	8	25

Notice that each column, each row, and each of the two diagonals has the same sum of 45. Now draw another square with the numbers written in words.

Five	Twenty-two	Eighteen
Twenty-eight	Fifteen	Two
Twelve	Eight	Twenty-five

And now count the number of letters in each cell and make another new square.

4	9	8
11	7	3
6	5	10

Did you get another magic square? Isn't that clever? Will it work with other magic squares? That is left for you and your students to decide.

*These are taken from a book entitled NUMBER5 ARE FOR3VER by Liz Strachan.