

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 42 NO. 1

MIDDLE / JR. HIGH SCHOOL

Σ SIGMA

2020 – 2021

MATHEMATICS LEAGUE

A HEARTY WELCOME BACK TO ALL OUR PREVIOUS LEAGUE PARTICIPANTS AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO THE NEW PARTICIPANTS. WE HOPE THAT ALL OF YOU HAVE A GOOD, SAFE, AND HEALTHY YEAR.

OFFICIAL CONTEST DATES: Dates for this year's contests are as follows.

1. Oct. 19-23
2. Dec. 7-11

3. Jan. 11-15
4. Feb. 15-19

5. March 22-26

MAILINGS: Again this year we will be sending the contests/newsletters/forms, etc. **electronically**. We are actually hoping that this will make it easier for you as well. If your school blocks outside emails, please allow the SIGMA mailings to be received. Of course, at the end of the year, the awards will be sent via the U.S. mail.

RESULTS: In returning the contest results, we would like to receive them within about 2 weeks after the contest dates. If the contest dates fall on school vacations or conflict with school activities, please attempt to give the tests within 5 school days either before or after the specified dates. This would be a nice plan during past years but during this "unique" year, it might not be as easy as was done in the past. So, do the best that you can in getting the results back to us.

Contest results can be returned to us via the U.S. postal service or electronically. If sending electronically, send to

lpenner@windstream.net If sent by "snail" mail, send them to **SIGMA, 5100 NORMAL BLVD, LINCOLN, NE 68506.**

CONTESTS: The contests may contain material that is new or strange for your students. Our contests do not follow textbook sequence and are not necessarily textbook problems.

COMMENT: If there are obvious typing errors (hopefully none) please correct them. However, refrain from explaining the problem. We urge you to be cautious about the type of information you give students to clarify a problem. All students should have the same opportunity for fair competition. And this year is another "unique" aspect of SIGMA – we are allowing you to give this to student electronically, give it to students as homework, etc. We don't know all the dictates your district has on you – but try to emphasize to the students that they should spend a maximum of 30 minutes on

each contest – AND they should do the work all on their own. No added help! Can we guarantee that there will be no cheating? No, but sometimes students do surprise us.

DIRECTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE REPORTING FORM: Check the enclosed page with the form, it has a completed example. Some additional instructions are also given on the left portion of the partial example. It is to your school’s advantage to list 12 names under each grade – if you have at least 12 in each grade participating. Suggestion: List the scores in decreasing order of their score. You may enter the results directly onto the sheet on your computer – we hope this helps you from having to write out all the names.

RUNNING, ACUMULATING, SCORE SHEET: You will need to keep a record which contains student accumulated total scores on the contests. Individuals are given an award at the end of the 5th contest. All students meeting a certain minimum score of the possible 40 points are given this award.

We suggest that a spreadsheet could be the most efficient way of keeping track of the students’ scores. However, if you want a different form, we can supply you with a different kind of form if you request it.

MULTIPLE TEACHER FORM: If you have multiple teachers administering the test, a helpful form that could be used is also being sent electronically. Make a copy for each teacher for each contest – then each teacher returns the form to you and from that you can fill out the reporting form that is to be returned to us. **DO NOT SEND THE STUDENTS’ TESTS and send only ONE reporting form for your school (unless you are competing in all 4 grades – then you will send 2 reporting forms). One of the reporting forms will have the results of grades 6, 7 & 8 and the other form will have grade 9.**

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Home: Leona (402) 489-8376
 Jerry (402) 423-1766 (Let it ring 6 times to leave a message.)

e-mail: lpenner@windstream.net (The character l is a lower case letter, not the number one.)
 jbeck68516@gmail.com (This is different from his OLD address.)

NOTE 1: *** CALCULATORS ARE PERMITTED *******

NOTE 2: OUR WEBSITE IS sigmamathcontest.com

You may download various forms from this website All are PDF files. Right now we are having a few difficulties and you may not be able to open it – but it will be up and running soon.

FOR FUN: From time to time mathematical items and/or quotes will be included as part of the newsletter. We hope you will find these enjoyable.

The fact that you can profit from your mistakes does not mean the more mistakes, the more profit. (Unknown source)
The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings. (Eric Hoffer)