



Morgan Hill Math

Middle School Programs FAQs

Overview: Morgan Hill Math provides coaches for MATHCOUNTS, a national competitive math program for middle school students. The fall 2010 MATHCOUNTS classes will be held at a centralized location for students from all local schools who are interested in participating. This year two levels of classes will be offered per week, a beginner/intermediate class on Tuesdays and an intermediate/advanced class on Thursdays. Students are welcome to attend either or both sessions, depending on their level of experience and/or interest. Each class will be one hour long. The fall session will begin in October and continue for ten weeks. Following these first ten weeks of classes, selected students from each school will be invited to form a school team for the MATHCOUNTS Chapter competition in February. Those invited students will continue to participate in coaching sessions until the Chapter competition. Students advancing to the State competition will be provided with additional coaching until the State competition, usually in late March or April. For details about class content, go to www.morganhillmath.org or www.mathcounts-ca.org.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Is there a charge for this program?

A: No, this year's program is **free** to all participants. Many thanks to this year's sponsors of Morgan Hill Math, including several local businesses, parents and generous community members for making this possible.

Q: How are participants selected?

A: There are no entrance exams. However, students who enjoy and are successful at MATHCOUNTS typically: 1) enjoy problem solving, 2) easily grasp new concepts, 3) have math skills beyond their grade level, and 4) have an A in math and score at the top end of the "Advanced Proficient" range on the STAR CST (California Standardized Test). Although not required, many of the participants will already be challenging themselves with Algebra as a 7th grader and Advanced Algebra or Geometry as an 8th grader.

Q: Is there homework?

A: There is no required homework. However, class time is limited and often there is insufficient time to complete all assigned problems. Students may be encouraged to complete worksheets at home (and often solutions will be emailed to them so they can check their answers). Each class introduces a new topic, so extra work between classes is strictly voluntary and does not need to be turned in.

Q: What type of learner enjoys MATHCOUNTS?

A: MATHCOUNTS most appeals to those students who enjoy math, learning at a fast pace, and solving problems. Most of the work is through direct instruction and paper and pencil work. MATHCOUNTS problems typically require multi-step problem solving so students need to be able to focus. The typical student also enjoys learning shortcuts or new approaches to solving problems.

Q: How do I register? Whom do I contact with questions?

A: Pre-registration is not required, as there is no entrance exam and we will be providing program information to Morgan Hill schools in the fall. However, to make sure you are on our e-mail list, please sign-up at our website www.morganhillmath.org to receive email updates. Contact Elizabeth Mandel, eamandel@verizon.net with questions.