



Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary & Middle Schools

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A MESSAGE TO PARENTS

During this school year, your child will be participating in the Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary and Middle Schools (*MOEMS*). *MOEMS* is a nonprofit public foundation which provides opportunities for children to engage in creative problem solving activities which develop a child's ability to reason, to be logical, to be resourceful, and occasionally to be ingenious.

The Olympiad goals for children are for them to:

1. develop enthusiasm for problem solving and mathematics,
2. deepen understanding of mathematical concepts and strengthen ability to use these concepts,
3. consider concepts that they might not otherwise encounter,
4. enrich experiences in intellectually stimulating and significant mental activities, and
5. build a stronger foundation for assessments and for future mathematics studies.

Like most worthwhile goals, there is no easy road to becoming a capable problem solver. One must recognize that this is an important and desirable goal, and that it may take considerable time and effort to realize it. The more time and effort invested, the more one is likely to learn.

Your child will practice regularly under the direction of a faculty sponsor in preparation for five monthly Olympiad contests. Being able to solve a difficult problem is one of the most satisfying experiences one may have. On the other hand, struggling with a difficult problem should indicate to your child that he or she has found something worthwhile and new to learn. This should be viewed as a challenge and an opportunity to grow. Learning how to solve a problem and to understand its underlying mathematical concepts are the most important goals of mathematics education.

Your encouragement and recognition of the importance of the Olympiad goals will help your child enjoy the Olympiad program as well as make progress in becoming a problem solver.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Nicholas J. Restivo
Executive Director