



# Math League News

■ **Our Calculator Rule** Our contests allow both the TI-89 and HP-48. You may use any calculator without a QWERTY keyboard.

■ **Send Your Comments** to comments@mathleague.com. View results at [www.themathleague.com](http://www.themathleague.com) before they arrive in the mail.

■ **The January Contest Date is January 8** There is a misprint on the contest envelope, on which it says that the official date is January 15, with January 22 as the alternate date. THE ACTUAL DATE IS JANUARY 8, with January 15 as the alternate date. Please make note of the correct date.

■ **Upcoming Contest Dates & Rescheduling Contests** Future HS contest dates (and alternate dates), all Tuesdays, are Jan 8 (15), Feb 12 (19), & Mar 12 (19). (Each alternate date is the following Tuesday.) If vacations, school closings, or special testing days interfere, please reschedule the contest. Attach a brief explanation, or scores may be considered unofficial. We sponsor an *Algebra Course I Contest* in April, and contests for grades 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. Get information and sample contests at [www.themathleague.com](http://www.themathleague.com).

■ **Contest Dates for 2013-2014 and Alternate Dates:** HS contest dates for the next school year (and alternate dates), all Tuesdays, are October 15, 2013 (October 22), November 12, 2013 (November 19), December 3, 2013 (December 10), January 14, 2013 (January 21), February 11, 2013 (February 18), and March 11, 2013 (March 18). Please note that each alternate date is the Tuesday following the official date!

■ **Change in Timing for December contest in 2013** Pat Harrington said, "Given that most high schools now have final exams before the Winter Break in December, I would recommend changing the date of the December contest. Teachers are really pressed for time, trying to complete course content and get ready for exams." Good point, Pat! For the next school year, as noted in the list of dates above, the December contest will be held a week earlier than it was this year, on December 3rd.

■ **T-Shirts Anyone?** We're often asked, "are T-shirts available? The logo lets us recognize fellow competitors!" Good news — we have MATH T-shirts in a variety of sizes at a **very** low price. Use them as prizes for high or even perfect scores, or just to foster a sense of team spirit! The shirts are of grey material and feature a small, dark blue logo in the "alligator region." A photo of the shirt is available at our website. There's one low shipping charge per order, regardless of order size. To order, use our website, [www.themathleague.com](http://www.themathleague.com).

■ **Contests for iPads and iPhones** We have iPad/iPhone versions of ALL of our prior contests for grades 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 and the Algebra contests available now, including last year's contests. We are not sure when high school contests will be available, but we are working on it! The link to these iPad/iPhone applications is on the home page of our website, [www.themathleague.com](http://www.themathleague.com). Take note of our current special offer: access to **all** past contests at any selected grade level for **all** students at a given school for the low, low price of only \$9.95 for the year!

■ **Administer This Year's Contests Online** Any school that is registered for any of our contests for the 2012-2013 school year may now register at [www.mathcontestsonline.com](http://www.mathcontestsonline.com) for the 2012-2013 Online Contests at no cost. The advantages of administering the online versions of our contests rather than the paper and pencil ones are that you do not have to grade your students' papers and that you do not have to submit any scores at our Score Report Center — these tasks are done automatically for you when your students take our contests online. If you decide to use this free service, you must set up your account and set the day you are going to administer each contest at least one day in advance of the actual contest date.

■ **Students Hungry for More?** Don't forget, we do offer the *Algebra Course 1 Contest* in April!

■ **General Comments About Contest #3:** Abdulaziz Yalcin said, "This is our second year in Math League and our students are getting used to the concepts and liked it. Thanks for everything." Fred Harwood said, "I liked this contest ... Thank you and Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all."

■ **Question 3-1: Comments** Robert Morewood said, "That #1 really reminds us: READ THE QUESTION! It said 'diameters' but those were taken as 'radii,' as 'area,' one student even did it with the taxicab metric!" Fred Harwood said, "The first question caught some being careless about diameter versus radius." Chip Rollinson said, "A handful of students mistook the measures of 6 and 8 as radii and not diameters." It seems to have been a common mistake!

■ **Question 3-5: Comment** Chip Rollinson said, "A clever problem. I had two students realize that the answer was the intersection of the diagonals, find the equations, solve for y and then make an arithmetic error finding x. Too bad there's not any partial credit!"

■ **Question 3-6: Comments** Fred Harwood said, "Many were running out of time for the last two so mistakes were made. I felt the pain of one of my top students who did a case by case listing and came up one short and that was her only mistake." Chip Rollinson said, "I had a handful of students solve this by a little bit of brute force (and then recognizing a pattern)."

## Statistics / Contest #3

Prob #, % Correct (all reported scores)

3-1	71%	3-4	33%
3-2	70%	3-5	19%
3-3	75%	3-6	4%