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 before they arrive in the mail.

■ **Upcoming Contest Dates & Rescheduling Contests** Future HS contest dates (and alternate dates), all Tuesdays, are Jan 5 (12), Feb 9 (16), & Mar 16 (23). (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.*

■ **Adjusted Rules for 2020-2021 and Our Internet Score Center** For this school year, we have loosened our rules regarding testing. We will allow the contests to be given either at home or at school, and on multiple testing days. Please administer the contests on any day or days during the week of the official test date or the alternate test date. We will be emailing password-protected pdf copies of each contest rather than mailing paper copies to the schools. You may either use these pdfs or our online testing site. This temporary policy is a work in progress; we may revise our procedures based on feedback from participating schools. Instructions for submitting scores will be in the emails we will be sending approximately ten days prior to each contest. Scores entered may be reviewed at any time by returning to the Internet Score Center. About 3 weeks after a contest, scores appear on our Web site, *www.mathleague.com.* Late scores must be accompanied by a brief explanation of the reason for lateness.

■ **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.

■ **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.mathleague.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 2020-2021 school year may now register at www.online.mathleague.com for the 2020-2021 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.

■ **Contest Dates for 2021-2022 and Alternate Dates:** HS contest dates for the next school year (and alternate dates), all Tuesdays, are October 12, 2021 (October 19), November 9, 2021 (November 16), December 7, 2021 (December 14), January 11, 2022 (January 18), February 8, 2022 (February 15), and March 15, 2022 (March 22). Please note that each alternate date is the Tuesday **following** the official date!

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

■ **General Comments About Contest #3:** Richard Newcomb said, "Great questions as always. Happy Holidays!"

■ **Question 3-1: Appeal (Accepted)** Richard Rovere appealed on behalf of students who answered using "20" as the year instead of "2020." Any answer that makes clear that the date at issue is December 16, 2020 is acceptable, including 12/16/20 and 16/12/20 for those who put the date before the month.

■ **Question 3-6: Comment** Richard Rovere and Mary Clarke each asked about a potential alternative answer to 3-6. As Richard's student put it, "I believe the intent of the question was for the polynomial to be cubic, but assuming it is linear and solving yields $P(x) = 256x - 248$ and $P(2) = 264$." That linear function is actually not a viable alternative, given that the question specifies that the polynomial have non-negative integer coefficients. A polynomial with a negative constant term would not be acceptable.

Statistics / Contest #3
Prob #, % Correct (*all reported scores*)

3-1	53%	3-4	23%
3-2	34%	3-5	26%
3-3	65%	3-6	22%