

Mathematica Centrum

Together, let's shape the mathematicians of the future

April 22, 2020

To: The Principal or Contest Manager

Re: The 2020 Contests

Dear Sir / Madam:

In these challenging times, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we have had to take unprecedented measures in order to honour our commitment to you for the 2020 Mathematics Contests. Due to school closures across Canada, those Contests scheduled for April 22, 2020 have been cancelled. Because of the unpredictability of the remainder of the school year in various provinces, we have been unable to set an alternate date.

In consultation with principals, teachers, parents, and even students, we have come up with a plan that will enable the students to use these contests as valuable learning tools. All contests will be made available online on May 1, and will remain there until June 15, 2020. The students, with the help of their teachers, will be able to download the contests and write them by following instructions and allotted times appearing on the title page. To record their answers, they may use the answer sheet that is included with the contests. As they have done in previous years, students must first complete the online preparatory tests. On June 16, answer keys for all the 2020 contests will be posted online for teachers and students. Depending upon their own circumstances and how they decide to run the contests for their own school, teachers may correct their students' answers themselves or else let the students do that on their own. Although the contests will lose their competitive aspects they are just as important as those done in previous years. For obvious reasons, there will be no corrections done at the Centre and therefore, there will be no certificates of distinction, medals, or honour rolls issued this year. The paper copy of the contests and certificates of participation will be sent to the schools at the appropriate time early in the 2020/2021 school year. It is also our intention to apply a reduction in the cost of next year's registration to help offset these changes.

This is a plan that helps students take a first step towards normalcy. Students need to know that things are going to be all right. We need to empower them with the feeling that they can control their own lives. Writing the contests will help them rebuild a sense of confidence in their own capabilities. Most schools, the ones that have been doing these contests for decades, are ready to implement the workplan right away, on May 1. Some schools will need a bit more time. There are no time restrictions for accomplishing this task. It may be done any time between May 1 and June 15.

Like always, we are committed to serving you well and in a timely manner and apologise for the changes we have had to implement due to the serious nature of the crisis. If you have other concerns and questions, please call the centre. We sincerely hope that the 2020/2021 season sees us back to our normal operations. Please keep your school, teachers, and students safe.

Remaining, respectfully,

M.C. Lepore, eng.
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