

MATH KANGAROO in USA NFP, Inc.

DATE: August 1, 2019
TO: Educators interested in facilitating Math Kangaroo 2020 Competition
FROM: Joanna Matthiesen, Math Kangaroo Chief Information Officer
SUBJECT: **MATH KANGAROO 2020 COMPETITION REGISTRATION**

This memo is intended to provide guidelines, structure, and outline the process for the Math Kangaroo 2020 registration. It provides specifics about the competition, its history, and some logistics for Math Kangaroo organizers. The information provides techniques on how to make the competition a success among participating students. It offers helpful tips on how to make the registration process and the participation successful. It will outline how Math Kangaroo will enhance and further your school and make a positive educational impact upon its students and participants.

BACKGROUND

Math Kangaroo originated in Paris, France in 1991. The idea came from a popular mathematical Olympiad that took place in Australia in the 1980s. The competition became popular in Europe in the 1990s and took form in the U.S. at Sobieski Polish School in Chicago in 1998 by Maria Omelanczuk, a trained mathematician and educator. She continued to promote the competition in collaboration with the school until 2003. At that time, annual participation in the competition increased to the point that Mrs. Omelanczuk, together with math teachers Izabela Szpiech and Joanna Matthiesen, formed a not-for-profit organization, Math Kangaroo in USA, NFP, Inc. Since 2003, it has overseen and promoted the organization and implemented its once-annual competition in the United States. Globally, Math Kangaroo is an international competition currently facilitated in over 80 countries with 6 million participants. Mathematicians meet annually each fall from the participating countries and work together to choose the optimal problems for the competition. The Olympiad takes place at the same time throughout the world. The results, however, are not compared between various countries and prizes are awarded locally by the national organizers of the competition. Yearly participation continues to grow.

MATH KANGAROO 2020 COMPETITION REGISTRATION

August 1, 2019

Page 2

1. Math Kangaroo 2020 registration will take place between September 16 and December 15, 2019. Late registration will continue from December 16 - 31 with an increased registration fee imposed during this period.
2. Math Kangaroo 2020 registration fee is \$21. It consists of a \$20 registration fee (consistent for 20 years) and a \$1 processing fee.
3. A Math Kangaroo Center must have at least 10 registered students by December 15th to continue the participation. If there are less than 10 registered students by December 15th Math Kangaroo reserves the right to transfer the registered children from the original center to another center in the area.
4. A Math Kangaroo Center can be public or private. The public center's registration is open to all students and visible on the Math Kangaroo website to all. The private center's registration is open only to students from the participating school and can be only visible with a password. Registering families receive the password from the center manager.
5. A Math Kangaroo Center may have multiple sessions, held at different times to accommodate more students.
6. A Math Kangaroo Center manager is obligated to comply with all the requirements and the responsibilities that are listed on the Math Kangaroo website. Here is the link:
http://www.mathkangaroo.us/mk/start_new_center.html.

DISCUSSION

The information below answers basic questions that parents ask before registering their children for the competition. The center managers should be familiar with it. In brief, the competition is:

1. 75-minute multiple choice test.
2. 24 questions (grades 1 - 4), 8 questions for 3 points, 8 questions for 4 points and 8 questions for 5 points.

MATH KANGAROO 2020 COMPETITION REGISTRATION

August 1, 2019

Page 3

3. 30 questions (grades 5 - 12), 10 questions for 3 points, 10 questions for 4 points and 10 questions for 5 points.
4. Most questions are word problems; they are chosen by The International Math Kangaroo Committee annually.
5. Any student qualifies who can read and work independently at one's school grade level.
6. Each registered student has free access to online video solutions for questions from previous years.
7. Each participant receives a t-shirt, a certificate, and a gift on the test day.
8. The national and state winners receive excellence certificates, medals, ribbons and prizes later in May. Top awards include all-expense-paid international summer camps and college grants.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to understand the competition and its logistics more fully please read the following:

- 1 Information about rules, features, scoring and awards.** This webpage explains how the competition works and what is important to know during the registration, participation, and later while waiting for the results: <http://www.mathkangaroo.us/mk/rules.html>.
- 2 The calendar of Math Kangaroo activities before, during, and after the competition.** This webpage here is a timeline that provides an overview of the process steps and time frames: <http://www.mathkangaroo.us/mk/calendar.html>
- 3 Resources available for students and their parents regarding Math Kangaroo Competition preparation.** Students can practice their skills and know how to solve Math Kangaroo questions through the complimentary sample questions from the previous years, free online solutions (available after the registration) and paid material we offer as well. Practice material is available at: <http://www.mathkangaroo.us/mk/practice.html>
- 4 The way to inquire about the process and seek answers to questions about the registration process and more.** The general email address with general questions should be addressed to info@mathkangaroo.org. Questions about center registration should be

MATH KANGAROO 2020 COMPETITION REGISTRATION

August 1, 2019

Page 4

addressed to joanna@mathkangaroo.org. Financial matter questions should be addressed to izabela@mathkangaroo.org.

- 5. Information about donating to Math Kangaroo nonprofit organization.** Any donation is tax deductible as Math Kangaroo is a charity organization with 501(c)3 status. It helps with student registration fees for families in hardships as well as with keeping the low cost of the registration fee for all students and no cost for school registration expense. The donation link here: <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1391436>.

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