



Svetlana Savova
Chief Academic Officer

MATH KANGAROO CLASSES, WEBINARS, AND COACHING: A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO COMPETITION PREPARATION

Math Kangaroo challenges students through a unique blend of problems and the preparation for such competition requires more than just conventional learning. We are introducing the Math Kangaroo Classes, Webinars, and Coaching sessions.

We commenced our pilot project of Math Kangaroo Classes two year ago, initially catered to the younger students, in grades 1-4. The positive response from both students and parents led to a subsequent expansion,

now encompassing grades 1 - 8, each consisting in two sets of ten lessons. This progression reflects our commitment to providing a challenging and fun learning environment for the participants. The classes dive deep into the problem-solving strategies using past Math Kangaroo problems as core material. The classes are designed for up to 12 students. They are not recorded, but after each session, the instructor sends the pdf version of the material taught in class. The instructors work together with teaching assistants,

who are high-school students and among the top Math Kangaroo winners.

The classes are interactive, and the students are encouraged to think out of the box. They actively engage in discussions, exploring diverse solution paths. These classes do more than just teach; they enable students to develop a multi-dimensional approach to problem-solving and provide a stimulating environment, nurturing the critical thinking, ensuring that students aren't just finding answers but understanding the underlying principles. Whether it's through strategies like drawing a picture, finding patterns, working backwards, 3D visualization, employing logic, or delving into algebraic thinking, geometry, and combinatorics for older students, the classes offer an expansive toolkit. By engaging with these varied strategies, students not only gear up for the competition but also enrich their analytical thinking skills.

To reinforce these concepts, tailored homework problems accompany each lesson. For those eager to challenge themselves further, build persistence and stamina, and gain more confidence, a full Math Kangaroo exam is recommended as optional homework. This rigorous approach, coupled with consistent practice, prepares students for the actual competition, both mentally and academically.

Levels 3-8 introduce an added layer of creativity with the Genius Hour Project. Here, the students transition from being problem solvers to problem creators, designing their own Math Kangaroo-styled questions. This exercise not only solidifies their understanding but also fosters creativity and innovation. The last session in the course is dedicated to Genius Hour showcase and some of the best problems are published on the Math Kangaroo website.

This year, we are also adding an hour each week for additional support, facilitated by our wonderful teaching assistants. The students can join the sessions as needed with any questions they may have about the homework or classwork.

But that's not all. Understanding the diverse learning needs of students, Math Kangaroo has also introduced webinars. Covering similar content, these are designed for larger student groups, making it both affordable and accessible. While they do not offer the same interaction with the instructor and peers, they teach the same problem-solving strategies. In addition, the webinars are recorded and can be accessed later if a student is absent.

For students seeking a more personalized touch, Math Kangaroo provides individual coaching. Tailored to address unique student needs and specific areas of focus, this one-on-one format ensures that every student finds their own pace and style of learning, leveraging the same invaluable strategies and topics offered in classes and webinars.

By introducing these preparatory initiatives, Math Kangaroo reiterates its belief in popularizing math. We are committed to guide, support, and inspire the future competition participants, helping students understand, enjoy, and celebrate math.

In the span of the last two years, the classes, webinars, and coaching sessions have gained popularity. The registration for the fall is open, and we invite every math enthusiast to be part of this exciting journey.