



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.

■ **Contest Dates** Future HS contest dates (and alternate dates), all Tuesdays, are December 8 (Dec. 15), January 5 (Jan. 12), February 9 (Feb. 16), and March 16 (Mar. 23). (Each alternate date is the Tuesday following the official date.) For vacations, special testing days, or other *known* disruptions of the normal school day, please *give the contest on the following Tuesday*. If your scores are late, please submit a brief explanation. We reserve the right to refuse late scores lacking an explanation. We sponsor an *Algebra Course I Contest* in April, as well as annual contests for grades 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8. See www.mathleague.com for information.

■ **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.

■ **Regional Groupings** Since we are not awarding plaques this school year, we have not posted regional groupings.

■ **What Do We Print in the Newsletter?** Space permitting, we print every solution and comment we receive. We prepare the newsletter early, so we can use only what we have at that time.

■ **How Do I Change the Spelling of a Student Name?** Please note that an advisor can always return to the Score Report Center to change the spelling of a student's name or to correct a score. We stay out of the loop on such changes. Any advisor noticing a need for such changes should feel free to make them directly.

■ **Can I Add Additional Names and Scores to an Earlier Contest?** One advisor asks, "Since some students did very well in the second contest, can we add their names (with the scores) to the Contest 1 report?" We always allow adding additional names and scores to an earlier contest as long as the additions do not affect the team total previously submitted for the earlier contest.

■ **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 will administer each contest at least one day in advance of the actual contest date.

■ **General Comments About the Contest** Michael Steele said, "Another fun contest this month. My team is really enjoying them."

■ **Question 2-2: Alternate Solution and Answer** Perry Page, Michael Steele, and Richard Sterr all pointed out that the official solution assumes that everyone arrived at the bus stop on the same day. As Richard Sterr said, "If $x + 4 + x = 29$ hours, then $x = 12.5$ and the answer would be 12:30 A.M. Or if it is 2 days later, you would have $2x + 4 = 53$ and $x = 24.5$ for an answer of 12:30 P.M. In general, if k is the number of days later that the last person arrives you have $2x + 4 = 5 + 24k$, so $x = 1/2 + 12k$ either giving you 12:30 A.M. or 12:30 P.M." Either or both of these answers should be given credit.

■ **Question 2-3: Comment** Kevin Horstman said, "The artwork, while spelling 'S' for separation and showing paths taken in lines parallel to the axes, did not show the shortest path to the finish. This led to some confusion as students began attacking problem 2-3."

■ **Question 2-6: Comment** Richard Newcomb said, "Number 6 on the HS round 2 was a very nice problem! Kudos!"

Statistics / Contest #2

Prob #, % Correct (all reported scores)

2-1	51%	2-4	40%
2-2	72%	2-5	39%
2-3	66%	2-6	24%