



# 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](mailto:comments@mathleague.com).

■ **Contest Dates** Future HS contest dates (and alternate dates), all Tuesdays, are December 7 (Dec. 14), January 11 (Jan. 18), February 8 (Feb. 15), and March 15 (Mar. 22). (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 contests for grades 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8. See [www.mathleague.com](http://www.mathleague.com) for information.

■ **Regional Groupings** Within guidelines, we try, when possible, to honor regional grouping requests for the next school year.

■ **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 2021-2022 school year may now register at [www.online.mathleague.com](http://www.online.mathleague.com) for the 2021-2022 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** S.T. Luttrell said, "My students range from grades 7 to 12 and they all were chattering away afterwards trying to figure out what the answer is and what they did wrong. LOVE how the competition spurs them on."

■ **Question 2-1: Comment** Edward Groth said, "It still echoes in my brain, more than 35 years in the rear-view mirror - my 6th grade teacher yelling across the room: NINETY-ONE IS NOT A PRIME! NINETY-ONE IS NOT A PRIME!...yet I've never had so many kids miss question #1 before, and all of them answering it '2.' (Correction, one student wrote '-1' which in my opinion is more forgivable than '2')."

■ **Question 2-4: Comment** Chip Rollinson said, "I had one student who knew the sum of the first  $n$  odd numbers was  $n^2$  so she figured that the answer to this problem must be 4 times the 100th odd number (which is 199):  $4 \times 199 = 796$ . Me, I noticed that the first number must be 4, the second number must be 12, the third number must be 20 . . . an arithmetic sequence for which the 100th number is  $4 + 99 \times 8 = 796$ . Thanks!"

■ **Question 2-5: Comment** S.T. Luttrell said, "Just a note of 'I love question 5' because they could have used what they learned from contest 1.4 :) :)."

■ **Question 2-6: Comment** Robert Morewood said, "I was delighted by #6. Some noticed the connection to the number 13, but only afterwards was the full connection to the fraction  $2/13$  revealed. A nice non-obvious example of modular arithmetic, including zero-divisors (mod 12)."

## Statistics / Contest #2

Prob #, % Correct (all reported scores)

2-1	59%	2-4	30%
2-2	50%	2-5	22%
2-3	78%	2-6	22%