

The Fifty-Third Annual
Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition
2009–2010

An Activity of the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America
Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition • Department of Mathematical Sciences •
Saginaw Valley State University • University Center, Michigan 48710 • www.svsu.edu/mmpc/

August 18, 2009

Dear MMPC Supervisor,

With this letter you are receiving a letter for your principal, registration forms, Award information, and a schedule of important dates for this year's MMPC. A poster announcing the 53rd annual **Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition** is available on the MMPC web site address: www.svsu.edu/mmpc/. Click on registration, then on PDF forms, and then on poster. We in the Michigan Section of the MAA appreciate the crucial role you play in the successful administration of the competition, and we encourage your school to participate this year.

2009–2010 Highlights

- Part I registration deadline: **Friday, September 18.**
- MMPC web site address: www.svsu.edu/mmpc/.
- To encourage participation, the top student from each school with at least 10 participants will automatically be eligible for Part II. This is in addition to the usual top 1000 participants.
- Your school code in on the address label. It is also available from our web site. provide your school code whenever you communicate with the director.

Please **complete the registration forms** carefully, and **retain copies of all materials that you submit for your records**. Students will need to enter their student codes on their answer sheets on the day of the exam. It is extremely important that the codes on the registration form correspond to the codes on the students' answer sheets.

In order to allow some extra time at the beginning of the school year for schools to assemble their participants we are setting the registration deadline at Friday, September 18. Please **send the registration forms together with the registration fees** (\$4 per student) by this date if at all possible, using electronic registration if necessary. This enables the exams to be sent in a timely fashion. Earlier registrations are appreciated. We do continue to work with schools and additional participants after this deadline whenever possible. Make checks payable to **Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition**; do not send cash. Registration fees generally are non-refundable.

To protect the integrity of the competition, we require that the exams be handled by a staff member who is not involved in the teaching of mathematics to student competitors. When the package containing the exams arrives, this person should count the booklets and answer sheets to ensure that enough have been sent and then place them in the school safe until the day authorized for the examination. No one is permitted to open a test booklet until the administration of the exam. The student competitors are the first to open the booklets and only when the exam is administered.

Part I is to be administered on the morning of October 7, and **Part II on the morning of December 2**. Schools administering the exam on an unauthorized date are subject to disqualification. Occasionally circumstances arise that prevent a substantial number of the students at a particular school from participating on the scheduled date. In this case we may permit a later administration of Part I, but only if approved in advance by the director. In such circumstances the supervisor must take steps to ensure the integrity of the examination. Under no circumstances will a variance be granted in the time of administration of Part II. We expect you to return both answer sheets of Part I and booklets of Part II on the exam day but no later than the fixed deadline dates in order to avoid disqualification.

The MMPC allows students to use calculators on **Part I of the competition**. Both graphing

calculators and scientific calculators are allowed on Part I. Portable computers, PDAs, pocket organizers and similar devices are not permitted. The memories of the calculators need not be cleared for the competition. The exam committee makes every effort to structure the test to minimize the advantage of more powerful calculators. **Calculators are not allowed on Part II** of the competition. No other outside materials (books, tables, formula sheets, etc.) are allowed. Students will need soft pencils and blank scratch paper. Please contact me if you have any questions about administering the MMPC.

Both exams must be proctored by a responsible adult. You will be asked to verify that these conditions were met by signing and returning the instruction sheet with the Part I answer sheets.

While the competition is intended for high school students, we have no objection to participation by younger students from your school system. There have been some remarkable performances in past years by middle school students.

Copies of previous MMPC exams may be used to acquaint students with the style and scope of the examinations. Many schools retain exam booklets each year for this purpose. Follow the link to “previous exams” on the MMPC web site for copies of previous exams.

The enclosed schedule of important dates is vital to avoid delayed delivery of materials. Please watch for the materials you should receive by October 2, November 20, and February 5. Let the director know immediately if you do not receive them. Adherence to the schedule simplifies successful participation in and administration of the competition.

Information about the **High School Visiting Lecturer Program** of the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America including the request form of a mathematics speaker is available on the MAA web site address: www.michmaa.org. We hope that participation in the MMPC and the HSVLP will stimulate high school students in the state of Michigan to develop their mathematical interests and abilities.

Membership application of **Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics** is available on the MMPC web site address: www.svsu.edu/mmpc/. Click on registration, then on PDF forms, and then on MCTM.

Finally, you may be interested in other mathematical competitions and programs available to high school students. Information about a number of these opportunities is available on the MMPC web site.

Sincerely,

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Content of this packet:

- This letter
- Letter to your school principal
- Calendar of important dates
- School Registration Form
- Student Registration Form
- Award Information