



Math Olympiads at Seawell Elementary (2025 – 2026)

Math Olympiads is a fun-filled program to foster mathematical creativity and teach strategies for out-of-the-box problem-solving. It is run by the non-profit public foundation Math Olympiads for Elementary and Middle Schools (<https://moems.org/>). The Seawell Math Olympiads team is open to interested 4th and 5th graders.

Structure and Organization

There are 5 paper-and-pencil contests throughout the year during which Seawell team members will match their scores against 4th, 5th and 6th graders throughout the United States and the world. Each contest consists of 5 word problems that students will solve independently. Students are encouraged to read the problem, devise a strategy, solve the problem, and double-check their answers. Each contest is preceded by two practice sessions during which students will work in groups to solve problems from previous contests and discuss general problem-solving strategies.

These contests can be difficult – they are created with 6th graders in mind. It is fine if your child is answering just one or two questions correctly! Students are not expected to have any minimum level of mathematical ability. **The only requirement is that they are interested in math and self-motivated to take on challenging problems.** We want all participants to feel that this is a safe place to be challenged and to become a better problem solver.

Meeting Schedule

Practice sessions and contests will be held after school on **Thursdays from 2:35-3:45pm** starting November 6, 2025, ending with a celebration on March 19, 2026. The full schedule is below. Students will meet in the cafeteria immediately after school dismissal for a brief snack and walk down together to the library along with the adult volunteers. Parents will pick students up from the carpool line at 3:45pm.

Math Olympiads rules state that the contest must be given to everyone at the same time, and no makeup is possible if a student misses a contest day.

November 6 November 13 November 20 (Contest 1) December 4 December 11 December 18 (Contest 2)	January 8 January 15 January 22 (Contest 3) January 29 February 5 February 12 (Contest 4)	February 19 February 26 March 5 (Contest 6) March 12 (snow make-up date) March 19 (Celebration)
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Parent Volunteers Needed

The Math Olympiads team at Seawell is run by parents. **We can only proceed with this program if there is sufficient commitment from parents to volunteer.** We need every participating family to help run the Math Olympiads! Each family is expected to volunteer 3-5 times throughout the program. Volunteer opportunities include leading a practice or contest session, making copies of problem sets, ordering team t-shirts, and providing snacks.

Cost

We ask families to pay **\$30 per student**. This covers the team registration fee, team t-shirts, and any other supplies needed. We do not want cost to be a reason for anyone not to be able to join the team. Please contact mathclub@seawellPTA.com if your child will benefit from a scholarship. You can also make a donation to cover the enrollment cost for another student.

Payment instructions will be sent upon confirmation of enrollment.

Registration and Enrollment

If your child is interested in participating, please register by **Sunday, October 12** by [filling out the online registration form](#).

The team size is limited to 25 students, and registration does not guarantee a spot on the team. Any student who is not accepted with the initial registration will be automatically placed on a waiting list and will be notified if a spot opens up. Priority will be given first to 5th graders and then based on the order in which registrations are received. Parents will be notified by Friday, October 17 about their student's acceptance or placement on the waitlist.

Once you have been notified that your student has been accepted to the program, you will need to complete the following within 1 week to confirm enrollment:

1. Pay the \$30 registration fee (or send email requesting a scholarship)
2. Sign up for at least 3 volunteer opportunities

Instructions for payment and volunteer signups will be emailed along with acceptance notification.

Questions?

Please contact mathclub@seawellPTA.com. Additional information may be posted on the Math Olympiads page of the Seawell PTA website:

<https://www.seawellpta.com/enrichments/math-olympiads>