

MCTM Qualifying Middle and Elementary School Contest Mineral Area College

Date: Friday, February 27, 2026

Location: Mineral Area College
5270 Flat River Road, Park Hills, 63601

Registration:

To register, first complete the [membership form](#) for your school at mathleague.org. Once the form is completed, you can register online using the link below:

[Elementary School Contest](#)

[Middle School Contest](#)

Students and parents are required to read the [Mathleague Code of Conduct](#) before participating in this event.

At MCTM-sponsored qualifying sites, the cost per student is \$10, and the maximum number of students per grade level that can attend is 8. Payment can be made during the online registration process via credit card or PayPal. You can also bring a check the day of the contest made out to MCTM.

Entry Deadline: January 31, 2025

Contest Day Schedule:

8:30 - 8:50	Registration - check in, pick up packet and students find their seats
9:00 - 9:10	Welcome
9:15 - 11:45	Contest Events
11:45 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 1:30	Awards Ceremony

Details:

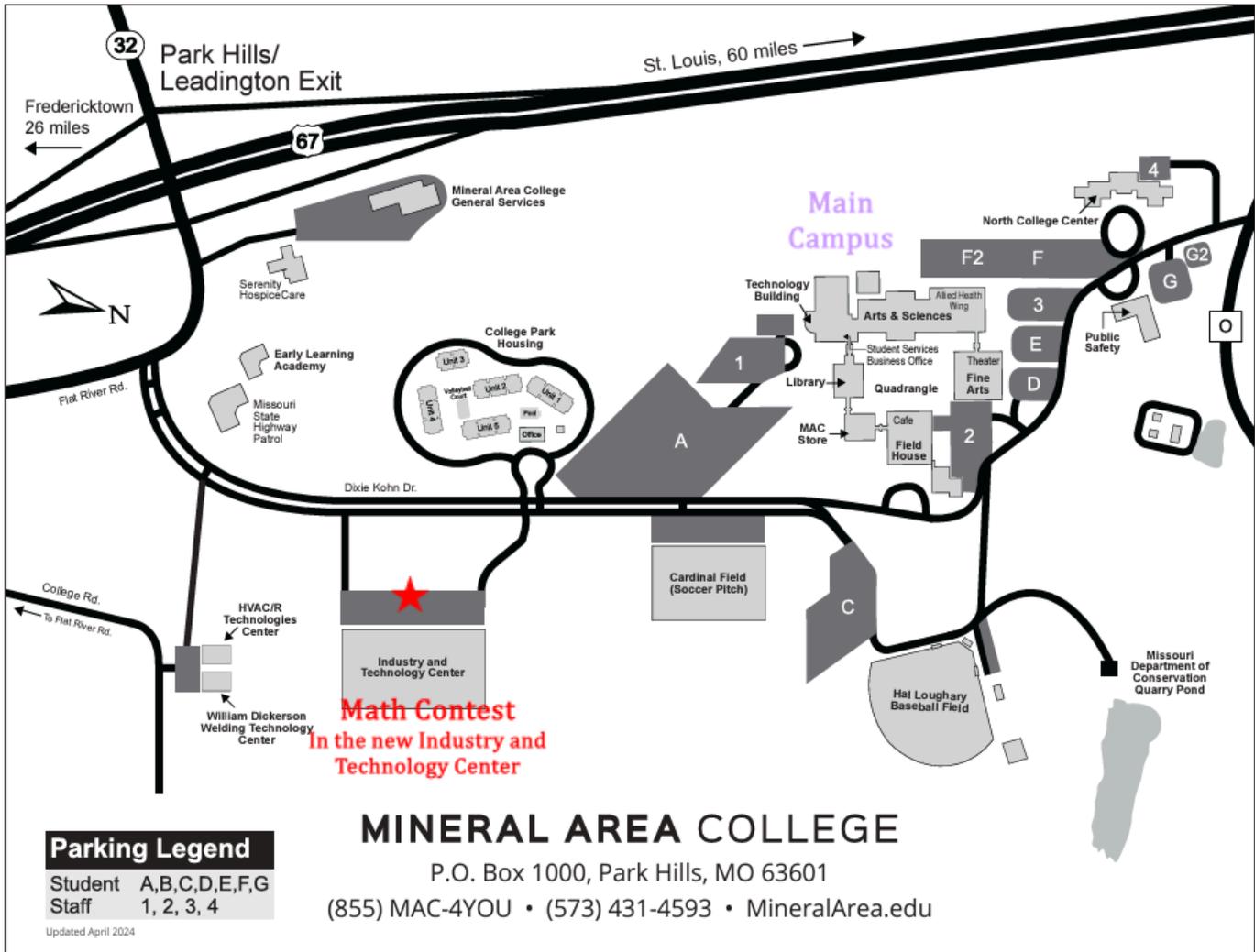
Parents are welcome to attend but will need to remain in the cafe while students complete their testing. Please feel free to bring snacks or sack lunches for your participants, as we will not be providing food at the competition.

Please also make sure your students are equipped with **sharpened pencils** and a **calculator**. They may use any calculator allowed for use on the SAT on the Target and Team rounds. Also, make sure that your students are aware of who will be on their team in the team round. Teams can be made up of up to four students. This competition allows students to qualify for the Southeast Regional Competition.

There will also be the option of purchasing a boxed lunch and drink this year. Details upon registration.

If you have any questions, please email Lauren Kieschnick.

Email: lkieschnick@mineralarea.edu



Lunch Ideas:

Students are welcome to bring their lunches to the contest. There is no refrigerated area for their storage.

There will also be the option of purchasing a boxed lunch and drink this year. Details upon registration.

Across Hwy 67 in Leadington:

McDonalds, Hardee's, KFC, El Tapatio

4 miles north on Hwy 67 at the MO 8 exit:

McDonalds, Burger King, Jack in the Box, Taco Bell, El Tapatio

5 miles south on Hwy 67 at the Farmington exit:

Chick-fil-A, McDonalds, Sonic, A&W, Rally's, Burger King, Jimmy Johns, White Castle, Qdoba, Steak n Shake, McAlister's, Arby's, Culvers, KFC, Subway, Taco Bell

Elementary Event Descriptions

Number Sense: (3rd – 6th Only) The test consists of 80 questions and is limited to only 10 minutes. There is no intermediate time signal given; at the end of 10 minutes the students must immediately stop writing (they are not allowed to finish incomplete answers started before the stop signal). The questions are best answered in order; a skipped question is scored as a wrong answer. Since Number Sense is designed to test students' mental math abilities, no calculators or scratch paper may be used during competition. In order for a question to be scored as correct the exact answer must be given (no allowance for rounding). The exception is where the question is preceded by an asterisk, in which case the student's answer must be within 5 percent of the exact answer for the question to be scored as correct. Five points are awarded for each correct answer while four points are deducted for each wrong or skipped answer. However, questions not answered beyond the last attempted answer (defined as any problem where a mark or erasure exists in the answer blank for that problem) are not scored.

Target Event: Four pairs of problems are administered, and students have 6 minutes to complete each pair. Answers must be fully simplified and, where appropriate, given in the format asked for in the question. Although measurement units are not required unless specified, any units written by the student as part of the answer must be correct for the problem to receive credit. Students may use any calculator allowed for use on the SAT. Ten points are awarded for each correct answer, with no penalty for skipped or incorrect answers.

Sprint Event: This is a 40-minute multiple choice test consisting of thirty questions. Students may not use calculators on this test. Four points are awarded for each correct answer, and 1 point is subtracted for each incorrect answer, with no penalty for skipped questions.

Team Event: One to four team members of various or same grade levels from the same school work together for 20 minutes to answer ten questions. Answers must be fully simplified and, where appropriate, given in the format asked for in the question. Although measurement units are not required unless specified, any units written by the student as part of the answer must be correct for the problem to receive credit. Students may use any calculator allowed for use on the SAT. Ten points are awarded for each correct answer, with no penalty for skipped or incorrect answers.

Middle School Event Descriptions

Sprint Event: This is a 40-minute test consisting of thirty questions. Students may not use calculators on this test. Answers must be fully simplified and, where appropriate, given in the format asked for in the question. One point is awarded for each correct answer, with no penalty for questions that are skipped or answered incorrectly.

Target Event: Four pairs of problems are administered, and students have 6 minutes to complete each pair. Answers must be fully simplified and, where appropriate, given in the format asked for in the question. Students may use any calculator allowed for use on the SAT. One point is awarded for each correct answer, with no penalty for questions that are skipped or answered incorrectly.

Team Event: One to four team members of various or same grade levels from the same school work together for 20 minutes to answer ten questions. Answers must be fully simplified and, where appropriate, given in the format asked for in the question. Students may use any calculator allowed for use on the SAT. One point is awarded for each correct answer, with no penalty for questions that are skipped or answered incorrectly.

Strategies to Share with Sponsors and Students

- **Team Formation:** Students should be organized into teams of 1-4 students for the team event prior to the day of the contest. Teams can be made up of 1-4 students of mixed or same grade levels FROM THE SAME SCHOOL. We encourage mixed grade level teams since a fourth grader may be stronger in a particular topic than a sixth grader just because he or she recently studied that topic in school. Every student attending will take the team test.
- The team event will be a part of the Sweepstakes score. A school's Sweepstakes score is obtained by adding the top 4 individual point totals from the school, dividing by 4, and adding the school's top score on

the team test. A maximum team total would be 400 points (300 points if the school had four members with perfect individual scores, 100 for the team test). Ties are broken by comparing team test scores (weighted by item analysis). If a school is not composed of 4 members, there will be a 0 added into the sum for each missing school member before dividing by 4.

- No student will be allowed to enter a testing session after a test has begun. Students are expected to remain in their assigned area and to refrain from talking throughout the individual testing sessions. Any student making disruptive noises may be asked to leave the room. During the team event, students should talk quietly with their teammates so that they do not inadvertently share answers with other teams.
- Students should bring at least 2 sharpened pencils and a calculator. Any calculator allowed on the SAT may be used (<http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/calculator-policy>). Calculators are allowed ONLY on the Target and Team Events. A student must furnish his or her own calculator. Calculators are NOT allowed on the Number Sense and Sprint Events. Students may NOT use cell phones or be wearing smartwatches during the contest. These need to be put away at all times students are taking a test. **STUDENTS MAY NOT USE CELL PHONES AS CALCULATORS OR TRANSLATORS.**
- Students may not use any dictionaries or other reference materials. If any student's proficiency in the language(s) the tests are offered in is so severely limited as to preclude participation in mathleague.org contests, that student's coach may make arrangements with mathleague.org to provide a written translation of the tests, so long as the translation can be accomplished in a timely and secure fashion, and at no cost to mathleague.org. Any such translation must be approved by mathleague.org before use at a contest.
- Only answers written in the proper spaces will be graded. Any blank space on the test may be used for any work to help you solve the problem. Scratch paper will be provided for the Sprint and Team events.
- Instruct students to not be concerned with writing units unless the question prompts them to do so.
- Fractional numbers must be expressed in simplest (lowest) terms or as an equivalent decimal fraction, unless a ratio is requested. For example, 0.33 is not equivalent to $\frac{1}{3}$ and would be counted incorrect if the answer were $\frac{1}{3}$. All improper fractions should be left as improper fractions.
- Mental computation and estimation items are intended to be performed mentally. Paper and pencil computation may be slower, allowing less time for working problems.
- Each participant will receive a Ribbon of Participation.
- The students earning the five highest scores in Number Sense, Target, and Sprint at each grade level will be recognized. Also, the five highest individual overall scores in each grade level will be recognized.
- For the Regional and State Math Competitions, there are two different ways that ties are broken for awards. If two students tied with the same score in an event (e.g. Target with a score of 30), their Borda scores were compared to see which student answered the more difficult questions. The student with the lower Borda score would place higher than the other. To break absolute ties in Sprint or Target at either the Middle or Elementary level, we looked at the students' opposing event scores. Say that Students A, B and C are all tied with a score of 30 on Target, all with the same Borda scores indicating they answered the same 3 questions correct. We then look at their Sprint scores. Say Student A has a Sprint score of 60, Student B has a sprint score of 55, and Student C has a sprint score of 50. Then to break the tie on Target, Student A would be first, Student B would be second, and Student C would be third. In Number Sense, if a tie occurs, the students generally have the same number correct and the same number incorrect to get the score they receive. To break this tie, we looked at the two students' sheets, and the student who answered the highest number question correct would receive the higher place. So, for example, Student A's last correct answer is question #30 and Student B's last correct answer is #38; Student B would win the tie.
- In addition to releasing the test materials, results of ALL sites will be available online at <http://mathleague.org/results/elementary/> or <https://mathleague.org/results/middleschool/> after the results have been finalized by the site coordinator. Students' names will not be listed; the school's name will be listed and the student's first and last initials. Students will now be able to see how they rank with regard to everyone else at a particular site and across the state. Please encourage all students to understand the penalty for guessing on all events. On Number Sense, they should answer quickly but accurately. On Elementary Sprint, students should once again work accurately and generally not guess unless they can narrow it down to 2 choices. It is possible and probable that students will receive negative scores on the Number Sense and Sprint rounds due to not understanding the penalty for incorrect answers. For example, a student who gets 2 questions correct on Sprint and then guesses on the remaining 28 (getting all 28 wrong) would have a score of $4 \times 2 - 28 \times 1 = -20$. On Target and Team, students should never leave a question blank—they should always guess since there is no penalty for guessing. On Middle School Sprint, students should also always guess since there is no penalty.

If your elementary contest child has qualified for the next level, please visit the [MCTM website](#) for your regional contest information.

If your middle school child has qualified for the next level, he/she will be attending State on March 14, 2026, at MICDS (Mary Institute St. Louis Country Day School). [State Contest Details](#)