

Please note the following policies, guidelines, and rules regarding the BCA Math Team for the 2024-25 academic year.

Pre-registration

Any student wishing to attend weekend Math Team in any capacity must fill out a pre-registration form, linked on the BCA Math Team website (<https://www.bcamathteam.org>). There is one form for students in grades 9-12, and another for students in grades 8 and below. This way, we have a record of their basic demographic information, an email address to reach the student, a parent/guardian phone number and email address, an additional emergency contact phone number, and various health information. If a student arrives without having previously filled out this form, they will be asked to fill out the online form before joining the classroom.

Afternoon program

The primary program of the BCA Math Team is intended for a high school audience, and runs most Saturdays from 1:00 – 4:00pm. Admission to this program for any student not yet in grade 9 is **by invitation only**, and such invitations will be extended only by a math team coach. Most weeks, there will be a paired set of lectures (introductory and intermediate), and a contest or practice contest. Some weeks will be devoted in their entirety to contests, and in some cases may extend past the regular hours.

Morning program

The middle school program of the BCA Math Team will run two Saturdays a month from 10:30am – 12:30pm. Students in grades 6 and below are encouraged to talk with Mr. Plotnick to determine if this program is appropriate for them before completing registration. Most sessions, there will be instruction, followed by contests or practice contests.

Expectations

Students should come to Math Team prepared and ready to learn and compete. All students should plan to bring pencils or pens with them. Calculators and computers are rarely used at Math Team, and should be left at home unless requested (except for those giving lectures, etc.). We will have an ample supply of paper, but students are certainly welcome to bring a notebook. Students are welcome to bring supplemental tools (ruler, compass, protractor, etc.); we will have a limited supply on days when they may be especially useful. We highly recommend students have a cell phone in order to contact their parents if needed.

Students must also bring and wear their student ID (whether BCA or some other school).

If a student is home-schooled or attends a school without student IDs, they must wear a visitor guest pass while in the building. Parents should not remain on school grounds unless they are in the cafeteria (or other meeting space) in a supervisory role.

Food/drink

In general, **students should not bring outside food or drink**. Water bottles or other closed beverage containers are acceptable. We may serve donuts or other snacks, either at a mid-session break or at the end of the program. For meetings which extend longer than usual, we may provide pizza or other food. **Students may not leave campus to get food during a Math Team session.** If there is a medical need for students to have food or drink available, this should be indicated on the pre-registration form so the coaches are aware in advance. An exception is made for students attending both the morning and afternoon programs. Those students may bring a snack or lunch to eat in the cafeteria between the programs.

Drop off and pick up

Students should not arrive more than 5-10 minutes before the scheduled start of their program, and families should ensure that students are picked up in a timely fashion at the end. **All drop-offs, pick-ups, entrances, and exits are via the main BCA parking lot. The default entrance is the school's main entrance (any change from this will be clearly announced). *No student may enter or exit via the north parking lot.* Middle school students may not remain for the afternoon program unless they have been invited to that program; all other students must be picked up at the conclusion of the morning program (12:30pm).**

The Math Team coaches are responsible for your well-being until you are picked up. For that reason, we require that any student who is not driving themselves must be picked up promptly at the end of the session unless other arrangements have been made *and approved by a coach* in advance. In particular, students may not walk to QuikChek or the Riverside Square Mall (or any other location) to await a later pick-up.

Access is limited to the parts of the building we are actively using. In particular, students may not go to their lockers, to other classrooms, or to restrooms in other parts of the building.

Eligibility

Any student in grades 9 or above who attends any of the Bergen County Technical Schools, or who lives or attends school in northern New Jersey, is eligible to join the BCA Math Team. Students who live and attend school nearby (such as New York City or Rockland County) may attend as well. There are no "cuts" or "tryouts", and students are welcome to attend Saturday sessions regardless of performance, as long as they are behaved and interested in mathematics.

Students in grades 7 and 8 in northern New Jersey may join the morning program. Younger students may join the morning program if they feel that they are ready for competitive middle-school level math. Students in grades 8 and below may be invited to the afternoon program at the discretion of the coaches, who will consider contest scores, maturity, and any other factors they deem relevant. **Students in grades 8 and below must pay a registration fee to take part in weekend Math Team activities (see below).**

Away Competitions

Math Team takes part in several competitions which involve travel. This includes day trips (such as Princeton / PUMAC), overnight regional trips (such as Harvard-MIT and ARML), and extended trips (such as WMTC and Stanford). These trips vary greatly in almost every way, so general policies may be overridden for a given event.

Trips to away competitions will generally have a registration fee. Most of the time, there will be a finite registration limit. The Math Team coaches will determine for any given competition if registration is invite-only or if some or all spots will be first-come. In the event that registration within the team is open, we may impose eligibility restrictions (such as high school only; BCA only; BCTS district only AIME-qualified only) depending on the nature of the trip and competition.

Some competitions allow for non-school-based group to register. **No Bergen County Academies student may join a non-BCAMT group for an away competition without the direct approval of Mr. Pinyan and Dr. Abramson.** If BCA Math Team is not attending an event, students will likely receive approval to compete on their own (but it is still required that you ask permission, because that approval is not *guaranteed* if it could interfere with our own plans). **Non-BCA students who are on the BCA Math Team who join a non-BCAMT group (other than their own school) for an away competition may jeopardize their future opportunities to be selected for a BCAMT team.**

Academic Dishonesty

Math Team is a school-based extracurricular activity. All standards of academic integrity strictly apply. Any student who is found to be cheating will be removed from the program and may be reported to school administration.

Some competitions we take part in are also administered by other local schools. Any student who attends a school which gives a certain competition may not take that competition with us. Verifying this is the student's responsibility.

Projected Schedule

The following is the list of dates that the afternoon program is scheduled to meet. The morning program will also meet on starred dates. This list is subject to change due to away competitions and weather closures.

September 14, 21, 28	October 13 (Sunday), 19	November 2*, 16*
December 7*, 14*	January 4*, 11, 25*	February 1, 8*, 22*
March 1, 8*, 15, 22*, 29	April 5*, 26*	May 3*, 10, 17*

End of year Math Team party – On a weekend date in June TBD

Registration Fee

Students in grades 9 and above, whether BCTS students or not, are not charged a registration fee for weekend Math Team. Away competitions will almost always have a cost. **All students in grades 8 and below, whether attending the morning program, afternoon program, or both, will be charged a registration fee for weekend Math Team.** This fee will be \$500 for the academic year from October through May. Any contests administered at weekend Math Team, including Math League annual contests, are included with that fee. The Joe Holbrook Memorial Math Competition and any away trips are not included, and will have separate costs. We do not charge students to take the AMC 10/12 and AMC 8; students may apply for these contests regardless of whether they are Math Team members, though space for outside students is limited for the AMC 10/12. There will not be a charge for participation with our group at MATHCOUNTS, however eligibility is limited to those students whose schools/districts do not themselves participate.

Students who are disruptive to the learning process or engage in misbehavior will be warned, and if their actions continue, they may be removed from the program without refund. Students who engage in academic dishonesty or violent conduct will be removed without warning and without refund.

To ensure the program is a good fit, students may attend **ONE** Saturday *after pre-registering* before submitting payment. After that, students **MUST** submit payment to be eligible to attend further weekend Math Team events. Please be advised: Refunds will not be issued on the basis of a student not enjoying the program, a student missing sessions due to conflicting activities, or a student moving away during the academic year.

The overriding rule and expectation that all students should keep in mind is: **Follow instructions given by coaches, use common sense, be respectful, and try your honest best on all official and practice contests.** Math Team is an extracurricular, and as such, membership is a privilege, not a right. Students who violate the above expectations will receive a warning. Repeated or severe violations may result in suspension or removal from the program.