

August 2001

Dear MMPC Supervisor:

With this letter you should receive posters announcing the forty-fifth annual **Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition**, registration forms, and a schedule of important dates for this year's MMPC. 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.

Please **complete the registration form** carefully, and **retain a copy of all pages completed 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.

Send the registration forms together with the registration fees (\$2 per student) as soon as possible, but postmarked no later than September 14. This enables the exams to be sent in a timely fashion. 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.

Part I is to be administered on the morning of October 10, and **Part II on the morning of December 5**. 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.

Note that again this year the **MMPC will allow students to use calculators on Part I of the competition**. Both graphing calculators and scientific calculators will be allowed on Part I. However, portable computers and pocket organizers are not permitted. The memories of the calculators need not be cleared for the Competition. Some questions on Part I may require a scientific calculator, but the Exam Committee makes every effort to structure the test to minimize the advantage of a more powerful calculator. At the present time, **calculators will not be 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 MMPC Exam on the MMPC web site for copies of recent exams and an order form for exams from earlier years.

The enclosed schedule of important dates is vital to avoid delayed delivery of materials. Please watch for the materials you should receive by October 3, November 21, November 28, and February 13. Let me know immediately if you do not receive them. Adherence to the schedule is required for the success of the competition.

Also in this envelope you will find information about the **High School Visiting Lecturer Program** of the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America. 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. I thank you for joining the Michigan Section in our efforts to recognize and encourage achievement in high school mathematics.

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 at the address given below.

Sincerely,



Robert Messer

Director, MMPC

Department of Mathematics

phone: 517-629-0301

e-mail: ram@albion.edu

Web site: <http://www.albion.edu/math/mmpc/>