

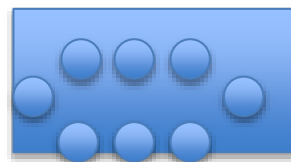


# Join the Math Club!

Willow Springs PTA is sponsoring the Grade 5-6 **Virtual** Math Club for the fall/early winter. Our math club is an exciting and challenging way to promote critical-thinking and problem-solving skills in mathematics. The activities and problems of the Math Club are designed to meet students at the middle-school level, and to learn some mathematics that is beyond the standard curriculum.<sup>1</sup> Many of the topics will be very challenging to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Materials and Club Time.** We will be doing MATHCOUNTS<sup>2</sup> problems combined with supplementary activities that encourage mathematically gifted and curious students to learn more. There will be out of the box homework worksheets assigned each week, and students are expected to give the problems a sincere effort. In our club time, we will have focused topics, as well as games or other activities to encourage mathematical exploration and enjoyment. We want to INSPIRE the kids, not intimidate them. Here's a sample problem:

Eight students, including Katie and Stephen, are to sit around a rectangular table with eight place settings, as shown. If each student is assigned to a seat at random, what is the probability that Katie and Stephen will be seated at the same side of the table? (Answer is below!)



**MATHCOUNTS competition.** This year, the regional competition will be held virtually on 2/5/2020 through 2/6/2020. Students who wish to participate in the MATHCOUNTS competition must join the club, but coach decisions about the (very small) MATHCOUNTS team will not be made until late December. An additional 50 students along with the team members will have the opportunity to participate in 3 online practice events.

**Club Coaches:** Our volunteer head coach is Ally Lu. Ally is a data scientist at IBM, working to solve organizations' business problems using mathematical approaches. She has coordinated the Math Club in 2017 and 2018. Joining her is our co-coach, Alexander Gu. Alex has won the 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Northern Virginia Regional Mathcounts competition and Silver Medal in the American Computer Science League national competition last year. He is a proud graduate from Willow Springs!

**When, Who, Where:** The club is for all interested 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders who are up for the challenge. Meetings are held **Virtualy** on Mondays from 1:00 - 2:00 pm, **October 19 - December 21.**

**Fee:** \$15 per child. This money is used for club purposes only, including Mathcounts registration fee and gifts for our students.

**Registration Process:** Registration is available immediately, and will go through **Friday, October 16 at 10pm.** We will have a lottery among students who register, which may include consideration of a child's Grade (5 or 6) at WSES. Please use the following URL (case sensitive):

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1di-4e\\_isvr-5j7lnkQL5fsdKY8u-589V7rAHlbr7G0A/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1di-4e_isvr-5j7lnkQL5fsdKY8u-589V7rAHlbr7G0A/)

If your child is selected by the lottery, you will receive additional information about payment.

**Questions:** Please send any questions to [nabirhee@gmail.com](mailto:nabirhee@gmail.com).

<sup>1</sup> If your child struggles with mathematics, this club will **not** be good for him/her. We do not do skills reinforcement.

<sup>2</sup> For more information about MATHCOUNTS, please visit their website at [www.MATHCOUNTS.org](http://www.MATHCOUNTS.org).