

TJHSST Varsity Math Team  
6560 Braddock Rd.  
Alexandria, VA 22312

September 24, 2009

Dear Mathematics Chairperson/Math Team Sponsor,

The Thomas Jefferson Varsity Math Team will once again be hosting the Intermediate Math Open (IMO) this year. The purpose of the IMO is to bring together seventh and eighth graders from around the area to learn a variety of problem solving strategies. Teams then apply these new strategies in a mathematical competition.

The IMO will take place at Thomas Jefferson High School on Saturday, November 14, 2009, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Students should arrive between 8:00 and 8:20 so they have time to check in and find their seats. The first part of the contest will be an individual competition. The individual round will be scored, but it is intended primarily as a warm-up and will have no bearing on the team results. The remainder of the morning will be dedicated to teaching specific strategies for the official team competition. This session will be taught by Varsity Math Team members to teams of six participants from different schools. After lunch, each team will participate in the official team, power, guts, and orienteering rounds. Parents may attend the awards ceremony at 4:00, but are not invited to any other part of the competition.

In accordance with NCTM standards, students are allowed and encouraged to use calculators. Although most questions do not require the use of a calculator, a calculator may be necessary for the completion of the contest in the allotted time. Any calculator that does not make noise, does not require an external power source, and does not have a QWERTY-style keypad is permissible. Each student must bring his or her own calculator; **calculators will not be provided.**

Because space is limited, each school may send up to eight students to participate in the IMO. Each participating school must also send one mathematics teacher to help with management-related aspects of the competition. This teacher must be available during the entire event in case a student from the school becomes ill or is otherwise in need of special assistance. In the past, two teachers from a single school have split the day. We will provide activities for the math teachers in the morning. More information about this will be e-mailed to participating schools. A lunch consisting of a sub, chips, cookies, and a drink, along with an afternoon snack, will be provided for each student and faculty member. To help defray this cost, along with the cost of building use, awards, and duplication, there is a \$7.00 registration fee per student.

We want to involve a balance of students in the IMO: 7th and 8th graders, boys and girls,

GT and non-GT, experienced math competitors and newcomers. Please try to send a diverse group and be sure the students can arrange their own transportation. Also, participating students **must be able to stay for the entire contest**. IMPORTANT: The registration process for this year is different from previous years. Following this letter is a guide to registering. Please return the completed form along with the \$7.00 fee per student to Pat Gabriel at TJHSST no later than Friday, October 30, 2009. Please make the check out to TJHSST. **WE MUST RECEIVE YOUR MONEY BY OCTOBER 30TH!** We can only accept the first 180 registrants. In the past, we have been forced to turn away a number of schools because of space limitations, so please register early.

Thank you for your help in facilitating the registration process and helping us prepare to host a successful IMO. We are very excited about this year's open and are sure that your students will find the experience beneficial and enjoyable. If you have any questions about the contest, please contact Pat Gabriel at [pmgabriel@fcps.edu](mailto:pmgabriel@fcps.edu). If you have any questions or problems with the registration process, please contact Sam Rush at [srush013@gmail.com](mailto:srush013@gmail.com) and include IMO Registration in the title. For more information, please visit the IMO website at <http://www.tjhsst.edu/vmt/imo.phtml>. Information regarding the rounds of the competition will be available online. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Pat Gabriel  
IMO Faculty Sponsor

# IMO 2009 Registration Instructions

The registration page can be accessed at <http://tjhsst.edu/vmt/imo/>. To register a school, click on the “Register a School” link and enter in all of the required information. An email asking you to confirm your school account will be sent to the address you specify under “School Representative Contact Information.” Please note that this must be an email account that you have access to, otherwise you will be unable to complete registration. Follow the instructions you receive in the email to confirm your school account.

Once your school account has been confirmed, you will be able to log in from <http://tjhsst.edu/vmt/imo/> and enter your students. All fields for each student are required. You can only edit one student at a time. Due to space limitations, we are only accepting 8 students per school. Please note that your students will not be reserved spots in the IMO until you send us your check. All students for whom we have received payments will show up in green, all unpaid students will show up in red. You should enter the number of students that you are taking by October 30<sup>th</sup>. You need to have the final NUMBER of students entered and paid for by this time, although you may change the student information up until November 12<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any problems with this process, please email [srush013@gmail.com](mailto:srush013@gmail.com).