

January 9, 2010

Dear Seventh or Eighth Grade Teacher,

The Eastern Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics once again will sponsor the annual T.A.P.S. Contest. Because of rising costs within the schools, we, once again, are allowing the contest to be given at the home school, with contest answers to be submitted via the internet.

T.A.P.S. (Team Approach to Problem Solving) is patterned after a model developed by the 1989-90 YSU Eisenhower Grant Math Scholars. The contest involves problem-solving as outlined in the NCTM Principles and Standards and addressed in the Ohio Academic Content Standards for Mathematics. These problems do not involve just simple computations, but address the benchmarks for mathematical processes in the content standards.

This contest is an invitational event for seventh and eighth grade students. As a member of EOCTM, you are invited to enter a team. A team consists of four students: either four 7<sup>th</sup> graders, four 8<sup>th</sup> graders, or a combination of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. A combination team will compete as an 8<sup>th</sup> grade team. The students involved must be enrolled in your school as 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade students or must be taking a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade math course. Your building may enter as many teams as they wish.

Students are permitted to use calculators for competition. A scientific calculator similar to the TI-30 series is acceptable. No graphing calculators will be permitted.

Each sponsoring teacher is required to administer the contest with his/her team and the contest may be given at any time before, during or after school any day during the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The contest will consist of four rounds of questions of five questions apiece, chosen with respect to the five standards in the state curriculum, Number Sense, Measurement, Geometry, Data Analysis/Probability and Patterns, Functions and Algebra.

Registration materials will be attached in this email, and your teams need only to be determined on the online entry form during the contest. The registration fee of \$15.00 per team, down from \$25 per team in past years with a special incentive to include as many teams as you wish to enter for just \$50 per school. **ALL REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE February 22, 2010** and mailed to the address listed below, however, if there are any delays from your home school, please contact me and we will try to facilitate the contest to the best of our ability.

Sincerely,

James DeToro  
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