

Information about Blackwell Math Competition Club!

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year!

Blackwell Math Competition Club has been working with the PTSA and the school for past few years to prepare students for various math competitions. The club is typically for 4th and 5th graders who enjoy math, are performing at 1-2 levels above grade, and would like to build their math skills and confidence. No prior experience with math competitions is required to join.

Students learn math concepts, different ways of approaching challenging problems, efficient problem solving strategies and teamwork. Each year, our students participate in 4-6 math competitions in late Fall through Spring, about half in school and the other half in venues around the state of Washington. We've had some good results over the past years, and importantly student participation and enthusiasm was quite high.

- In 2014-2015, Blackwell's 5th grade team won the statewide MathIsCool Masters champion, and won medals at the Washington State Middle School Math Olympiad.
- In 2015-2016, our 4th graders won the statewide MathIsCool Masters competition for their grade, and all our teams won medals at the Math Olympiad. We also had a number of students in the top 20 scores in the nationwide Math Kangaroo competition.
- In 2016-2017, our 4th grade team won No.2 in the MathIsCool final and a number of students scored top 20 in the nationwide Math Kangaroo competition.
- In 2017-2018, our school team won 4th in Washington State Math Championship, 5th/6th in MathIsCool competition. Students won individual awards at those competitions, as well as national competitions such as AMC8 and Math Kangaroo

Starting next Tuesday 9/11, we meet every Tuesday after school (4-5pm) at Blackwell library. Club members are encouraged to participate in the competitions. We collect a membership fee of \$100 for the year, to cover entry fees for various competitions.

This year, we need your help to keep the club going:

- If your child would like to join the club, please let us know or simply show up on the first session. You can try out a few times before deciding if you want to join

- We will need ~2 parent volunteer coaches. This will typically involve lecturing and administering practice tests similar to the competitions and showing students various techniques to solve the problems. I am happy to help with material and tips on running club sessions, but you'll be responsible for leading the sessions. You need to be familiar with elementary and middle school math concepts, and comfortable handling a class of your child's peers. It needs commitment but is not hard, and can be mentally rewarding

- In addition, we need ~2 parent volunteers to help with maintaining classroom order and cleanliness. If you are interested in helping out please email ruigong@hotmail.com

Rui Gong, parent volunteer, coach for 2017-2018 school year