

MATHPATH 2010

PRE-CAMP BRIEFING (last updated 6/26/10)

Dear students enrolled in MathPath 2010 and parents of the students:

This pre-camp briefing discusses all you need to know about how to get to MathPath2010, what to pack, what to submit at check-in time at camp, and how to keep in touch while the camp is in session. If you still have questions, email camp@mathpath.org. If you prefer a telephone call, please provide the number and the preferred time; we will call you back within two days.

The telephone number of the camp, as always, is 415-830-3838. This connects directly to our camp Skype account, wherever we are. (Any listings with 380 instead of 830 are typos.)

The times given in this briefing are in Central Daylight Time (CDT) in the USA.

The MathPath 2010 opening session will take place at Monday June 28, at 8:30am, in the John B Davis lecture theatre (Building #25 – see the Macalester College campus map at <http://www.macalester.edu/about/mapbynumber.html>). All visiting parents and relatives are invited.

Minor revisions of this briefing may be made, in which event you will be promptly notified via email.

We look forward to meeting you soon!

Sincerely,

The MathPath Staff

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I. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE, MATHPATH 2010

Please see <http://www.mathpath.org/gettingthere.htm>. It provides specific date and time windows during which students are to arrive and depart, and specific information you must email us so that we are prepared to receive them and send them off. There is also important information there about Unaccompanied Minor Status. Below we provide a little extra information about how we welcome people at the airport and about immigration for foreign students.

MathPath Welcome Party

The Welcome Party uses a two-stage catching procedure. The Party is stationed in two groups – one at the exit point from the security area and the other at the baggage claim area for your flight. They will have your name, airline, and flight number details. They will also know if the flight is late. You can help prevent delays in the greeting process by taking an active part in the greeting process - look for a big placard reading "MathPath". Members of the Welcome Party will be wearing MathPath T-shirts and MathPath hats. To make yourself extra-visible to them, *please wear a headband or neckband – a red bandana.*

Unaccompanied Minors will be handed over by the airline directly to the leader of the Welcome Party. Others will be met as described above.

In the very unlikely event that you miss seeing the Welcome Party, do not leave the airport terminal. Phone the MathPath office at **415-830-3838**. Please carry this 415 number in your

wallet. Use your cell phone or proceed to a public telephone inside the terminal nearest the baggage claim area of your flight. Stay within ten feet of one of the telephones. Most likely, you will be greeted by a member of the Welcome Party who will be keeping an eye on the telephone area. Your call, if made, will be forwarded to the cellular telephone, carried by the Welcome Party inside the airport. Also, listen carefully to all announcements made in the terminal; we will be trying to page you. Since we know your name, airline, and flight number, we won't miss you. We will be waiting for you even if your flight is late or arrives late at night.

The airport procedure to greet students is part of our protocols for safety and security of students. Our catching procedure ensures that the parent, the arriving student, and the camp staff do not have to worry.

All students arriving by air will be asked to call home from the airport immediately after they are met by the Welcome Party -- know how to use your calling card to place a call if you do not have a cell phone. Parents of international students will be informed by email or telephone immediately after we receive the student.

US Immigration

Students from outside the US will be sent, upon admission, a special document about steps needed to enter the US. As that document explains, there are several items you should bring with you to the border, because Immigration officers will ask for them or may ask for them. Foremost, bring the originals – not photocopies – of:

- Canadian citizens: Your Canadian passport.
- Citizens of other countries, even if residing in Canada: Passport and, in many cases, a US entry visa that you must apply for in person at a US consulate well in advance.

Next most important, bring the MathPath Notice of Admission.

The waiting time for US visa applications varies by consulate; 30 to 50 days are not uncommon. Please check http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/tempvisitors_wait.php If you need a visa, you should begin the process immediately. Having ample time for the process eliminates worry! The document we will send you explains what sort of visa you need and what steps you must take to obtain it.

II. CHECK-IN

Check-in will be in our dormitory, Dupre Hall, #41 on the [campus map](#). Students should be prepared to submit the following items at check-in.

1. A medical insurance card that covers you in St Paul. The card must be in agreement with the information about your insurance that you will have submitted earlier on the Health form. Many health plans do not cover out-of-local-area costs, or only cover a fraction of them. So please be sure to submit a card that provides full coverage, or provide additional cards or

documents that together provide full coverage. International students as well as students from Canada should obtain coverage that pays to hospitals in the United States. Students from Canada may obtain these from Canadian banks. The coverage should be effective until August 1 and must also cover any hospitalization needed beyond August 1, 2010.

2. Cash or a check for your spending money. See later for the recommended amount.

There are several forms the parent/guardian is expected to complete, sign, and send us earlier. We emailed these to you earlier or asked you to download them from the web. If for some reason these have not been submitted, and we have still allowed the student to come to camp, these forms must be submitted upon check-in. These forms are

1. MathPath Summer Camp Health Form, which also must be signed by your physician.

2. The MathPath Indemnity Form

3. (Optional) The permission form for persons to take students off campus. No person other than a parent or legal guardian is authorized to take a student off the camp's campus premises without this signed form of consent from the parent or a legal guardian of the student.

4. (Optional) A limited power of attorney form authorizing MathPath senior personnel to sign waivers for your child for activities such as tubing or rafting where the outfitter may require a "assumption of risk" waiver signed by a parent or guardian. You may prefer to sign these forms on an individual basis once we know what activities are available, but it is often impossible to get these forms to you and back in time, in which case you child cannot participate in the activity. Hence we provide the option to sign a general form in advance.

III. WHAT TO BRING

Laundry detergent and fabric softener will be provided by camp. If you do not know how to use a washer and dryer, learn before you come! Machines will be operated by coins or cards – a wash and dry each cost \$1 at Macalester. Bed, sheets, blanket, pillows, pillow covers are provided. Fresh bed linens and towels are provided once a week.

We recommend that you bring the following, although many of the toiletries and school supplies can be bought at Macalester College or nearby stores.

____ A photo ID, preferably a recent school or government-issued ID (required by airlines anyway)

CLOTHES /APPAREL

____ 8 pairs of sport socks

____ 9 underwear

____ 8 shirts or T-shirts

____ 2-4 pairs of shorts

____ 2-3 pairs of long pants

- 1 lightweight parka or rain jacket, with hood if available
- 1 warm sweater/sweatshirt – for some cool summer nights
- 1 hat or sun visor
- 1 pair of sneakers for dry days
- 1 pair of cheap, light sandals, for bathroom use if not for use around campus

For weather information for St Paul, see

<http://www.climate-zone.com/climate/united-states/minnesota/minneapolis-stpaul/>

In general, July is pleasantly warm, but there may be some very hot or humid days, as well as some heavy thunderstorms. Our dorm is not air-conditioned. We will be providing room fans.

TOILETRIES

- One large towel (for swimming and outdoor trips;
Macalester College provides room towels)
- One or two washcloths
- Four bars of your favorite soap
- One plastic soap dish
- Shampoo/conditioner – pack in zip-lock plastic bag
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Nail clipper and comb

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Two notebooks
- One pocket folder
- One 1.5” three-ring binder – there will be handouts
- 100 sheets of wide-ruled paper with three holes to fit the binder
- Three pens, two pencils, one eraser, and an inexpensive manual pencil sharpener

RECREATION

- Good hiking or walking shoes (if you want to go hiking)
- Swimsuit
- Soccer shoes and shin guards if you play soccer – there will be
a lot of soccer scrimmages / games
- Tennis racket, baseball mitt, or other sports equipment you use
(Want to learn Pickelball? Mr L will bring the equipment. See
http://www.usapa.org/whatis_pball/index.php)
- Board games, chess sets, puzzles
- Musical instruments (Pianos are available for those who wish to practice.)

OTHER ITEMS

- Small alarm clock or alarm watch
- Telephone calling card to make outgoing long-distance calls.
- No need to bring a desk phone this year. At Macalester desk phones are in each dorm
room and activated for all incoming calls, local outgoing calls, and calling card long-
distance calls.
- Inexpensive sunglasses
- Sunscreen lotion – pack the bottle in zip-lock bag

- _____ Insect repellent – pack the bottle in zip-lock bag
- _____ Bag (the kind with pull string and made of nylon net) for soiled clothes

We will provide window room fans, but if you are coming by car and have one already, you may wish to bring it.

OTHER ITEMS (optional)

- _____ Cell phone & charger (Many people prefer to use cell phones these days instead of land lines. Cell phone reception is good in the dorm and on campus.)
- _____ Camera (camp will not be responsible if you lose it.)
- _____ Calculator – no games on the calculator; see below. (One or two breakout courses use calculators, but you can manage without it - camp will not be responsible if you lose it, so better to bring an old nongraphics, cheap one if you bring one at all)

PACKING

We have recommended over the years that you bring two small bags rather than one large bag and to check with airline for maximum combined weight of checked baggage. Times have changed. Now most airlines charge for the first bag and a lot for the second. (Southwest is an exception, and it also has a liberal Unaccompanied Minors policy.) So we advise that you check one bag and board your flight with a small carry-on. The best way to accomplish this is to pack nothing except things in the list above. Like they say, Travel Light! Even better, travel green! Also, many items cannot be carried onto the airplane cabin in a carry-on, for instance, liquids in containers over 3 ounces, or anything like nail-clippers or scissors. See

http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/screening_experience.shtm

RECOMMENDED SPENDING MONEY: \$318 USD FOR 4 WEEKS

This is for the following expenses:

1. \$2 per week for laundry
2. \$10 for Camp Picture CD – about 500 photos of the camp
3. \$10 Camp Yearbook
4. \$100 for optional weekend activities, such as bike rides
5. \$40 for incidental expenses on the round-trip from home to camp
6. \$50 as a cash reserve for items such as purchase of an occasional souvenir during a trip, occasional extra drinks, and the like
7. \$100 as a deposit against possible losses or damages caused by the student and charged to the camp by the college (e.g., lost room keys, broken doors).

The money for laundry, weekends and cash reserve can be prorated for 2-weekers, giving a total of \$239.

Spending money is safeguarded as follows. MathPath runs a little bank. At check-in students deposit any money (cash or check) they don't need immediately. Students have regular access to this money through the Camp Director. Any money remaining in the account at the end of camp will be returned to the student, in cash unless it is a large amount.

Every student will receive a beautiful camp shirt and hat by the end of camp at no charge. Additional shirts are \$15 and additional hats \$8-12.

The MathPath hat is well liked for its good look and quality. The hat will have the ingenious MathPath logo (Pi as the shadow of M) embroidered.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Domestic travelers: Don't forget to carry your boarding card safely in the zippered side of your carry-on bag! Book *electronic tickets* so that you do not have to worry about the ticket enroute, at the airport, or at the camp. However, flights using multiple carriers may sometimes not offer electronic tickets. In general, we discourage using multiple carriers because of problems with conflicting Unaccompanied Minors policies – the airline on the second leg may refuse your child!

Canadian and foreign students: Carry your passport and entry visa as well, if they are required as per the information above under US Immigration.

WHAT NOT TO BRING

Basically, do not bring any expensive items you do not absolutely need; the chance of losing them is too great, and your family is responsible for the loss. Also, any item the student will be using for the first time (say, a cell phone) is likely to get lost because he or she won't be used to keeping careful track of it.

Electronic games hardware and software

Electronic games, on computers, calculators, or game machines, are *not allowed* anywhere at MathPath. Please instruct the student to adhere to the policy.

Laptop computers

Many professional mathematicians make serious use of computers for doing mathematics, but the occasional good uses that could be made at MathPath are far outweighed by the temptation for time wasters, mostly action games. Students will have access to campus computers for email and for one or two courses that may use the program *Mathematica*. (Laptop computers are allowed in cases where parents specify a need other than email and are willing to sign a waiver absolving us of responsibility for damage or theft.)

IV. COMMUNICATION

CONTACTING MATHPATH

The MathPath phone number, **415 830-3838**, connects to the Executive Director's computer all year, and during camp other senior staff will also have access. Emails to camp@mathpath.org will also be received on all days of the year.

Except for the arrival/departure weekends, please refrain from calling the camp number to leave messages for individual students, unless in an absolute emergency or you are unable to reach the student in their room after several tries for at least two days.

CONTACTING INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS

Students should be reachable at the same email address they use at home, as they can connect to their home email provider through campus computers.

Students will have telephone connections in their rooms. Make sure your child gives you the phone number on the phone is their room, and that you try phoning it to see if the number is correct. Long distance calls from these phones are by calling card only.

It is often difficult to reach students in their rooms, as they are often participating in classes or activities. If you wish to be able to contact your child in his or her room, establish an appropriate time so that he or she may know to expect your call. Generally, the best time to reach you child is 10 pm CDT – they are supposed to be in their rooms in preparation for lights out at 10:15.

Do not call in the morning unless you were unable to reach the student the previous night. If you must call in the morning, the time to call is between 7:30 am and 8 am CDT. Do not call students between 10:15 pm and 7:30 am CDT; students are supposed to be asleep and even if your child gets up early the ring may disturb students in nearby rooms.

A NOTE TO PARENTS: Counselors will remind students to call home every day in the first week, thrice the next week, and twice a week thereafter. Please impress upon your son or daughter the importance of keeping you up to date. Be sure to talk to them about it before they leave and to agree in advance on the best times for contacting you. Only international students are exempted from the call frequency – they will call home immediately upon arrival, then once the following day, and once a week thereafter.

Extended parent communication often leads to homesickness. Please keep your telephone calls brief and to no more than the number of calls suggested above. It is often the case that the parent misses the child much more than vice versa. You need to let go!

Homesickness: We keep an eye out for it and counsel kids where we see a need. Experience has shown that the busy days and evenings at MathPath usually cure homesickness within a few days when it does occur. If the student has not attended a residential camp before, we recommend that you send the student away for an overnight stay with friends or relatives prior to coming to camp.

MAIL

Some parents send a lot of stuff by mail and courier to the student. Unless the student's birthday falls during the camp dates or the student needs a special medicine, we recommend that the mail or courier be used sparingly. Address all individual correspondence (postal mail or courier) to:

Student Name / Math Path
c/o Chris Baxter / Campus Center
Macalester College
1600 Grand Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105 (not 55104 as an earlier version said)

Last postmark dates of student mail:

Regular domestic mail – July 17

Domestic Priority – July 20
Domestic Express Mail – July 21
Regular mail from Canada – July 12
Regular mail from other countries – July 9

Courier:

Overnight domestic or Canada courier – July 21
Courier from other countries – July 16

V. TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION OF PARENTS /RELATIVES

Parents, relatives and teachers are invited to come and remain for the start of the camp on Monday June 28 at 8:45 am. They may also wish to attend the closing ceremonies on the night of Saturday July 24. Macalester College recommends that guests stay at

Best Western
1010 Bandana Boulevard West
St. Paul, MN 55108
ACTC 2009 Rate - \$89

When making your reservation be sure to ask for ACTC rate. Reservations: 1-800-WESTERN or 651-647-1637. The hotel is 2.4 miles from the college. There is no shuttle to the airport.

As it says on the Getting There webpage, parents can be transported to and from the airport with their child, *with prior notice and for a small fee to be determined*. However, if you wish to do sightseeing, we recommend renting a car.

Avis is the official car rental company for MathPath. The Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) Number for MathPath is **J991818**. The preferred rates apply on compact through 4-door full size cars. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-331-1212. You may wish to check with other rental companies for lower rates.

VI. OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

The location of MathPath2010 gives us a unique opportunity to explore the Twin Cities area, and we plan to take full advantage of this in our weekend activities. There will be charge for special activities like cycling or professional ballgames to cover equipment or ticket costs.

VII. SAFETY PROTOCOL

The safety of all participants is the highest priority at MathPath. To guarantee it, the following protocol will be in effect throughout the camp:

1. Access to the dormitory building occupied by MathPath students will be by magnetic card or key issued only to students and staff. Student rooms will be accessed by keys issued to students on lanyards that the students hang around their necks. Students will keep their rooms

locked at all times. Students will wear the lanyards at all times when they are outside their own rooms, except when swimming, playing field games and the like where wearing a lanyard might interfere with physical safety.

2. Each student will be assigned to a staff advisor, who will be specifically responsible for the student's well being. In particular, it will be the advisor's responsibility to check that the student is present in the dormitory building every evening. There will be a roll call and counselor meeting each evening. Students should remain in their own rooms after the nightly meeting. Lights should be turned off in the student's room at the scheduled lights-out time.

3. Students will not be allowed to leave the campus unless accompanied by camp personnel or an authorized adult. During off-campus excursions, students will be grouped under leaders who in turn will answer to the camp's Field Supervisor.

4. In case of a serious medical problem or other emergency affecting the student, we will attempt to notify parents or guardians immediately, while at the same time prompt medical attention will be administered as required. On the health form you authorize us to do this. Similarly, on this form you inform us of medications the student must take, and we will see to it that the medications are taken.

5. A student diagnosed later than June 1 by their physician as having a serious or highly communicable disease (e.g., mononucleosis, meningitis, swine flu) will not be allowed to attend camp. If a student develops any such disease at camp, they will be immediately admitted to the nearby hospital or placed in cared-for-isolation, as merited by the case. Specifically, the protocol for swine flu at Macalester is to isolate sick students in their dorm rooms, with our staff watching them and bringing food.

– end –