Mathπath 2020

PRE-PROGRAM BRIEFING
(last updated 5/16/2020)

Dear students enrolled in MathPath 2020 and parents/guardians of the students:

This Pre-Program Briefing describes what you need to know to prepare for daily life at Remote MathPath 2020. If you still have questions, email April Verser, Program Director, at april.verser@mathpath.org. The telephone number of the program is 610-616-3211. This connects directly to the MathPath Skype account, monitored by April Verser.

The times given in this briefing are listed in both Pacific Daylight Time (PDT) and Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) in the USA. A format for such a time would be: 1:00pm PDT / 4:00pm EDT.

The MathPath 2020 opening session will take place on Sunday, July 5, tentatively at 10:00am PDT / 1:00pm EDT.

Sunday, July 5 will be Orientation Day, and the opening session has several components that may be of interest to the families of our students. Family members who reside in the same household as students are invited to attend the first part of the session, preferably from the same device as the MathPath students whenever possible. We ask visitors to allow the students to take "center stage" of their virtual conferencing device. The Orientation will include:

- Welcome, including information on the philosophy of MathPath
- Introduction of all the instructors and staff present
- Question and Answer opportunity about the organization and schedule
- Kick-off Plenary (the first mathematics presentation to all students)
- The first Problem of the Day (PoD)

Revisions of this briefing may be made from time to time; check the "last updated" date on the top of this page. Accepted students and their families will be informed promptly of significant changes via email.

We look forward to meeting you.

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Sincerely,
The MathPath Staff

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. SUPPLIES NEEDED

SCHOOL SUPPLIES – During the month, students should expect to use a fair amount of paper and receive many electronic handouts, since they attend two or more plenary talks per day and participate in a total of six breakout courses, two per week. We suggest the following to keep everything organized.

____ The equivalent of 150-200 sheets of paper, whether in the form of loose leaf or notebooks
____ Binders or folders to keep plenary notes, materials for breakout courses, and other miscellaneous documents (sheet protectors optional)
____ A minimum of: 3 pens, 12 pencils, 2 erasers, extra lead and/or pencil sharpener(s)
____ Scientific calculator (only to use when requested)
____ (optional) Straightedge/ruler, protractor, simple compass
____ (optional) Scissors, tape, glue

ELECTRONIC DEVICES
____ Laptop or tablet with remote-conferencing software capabilities
____ Reliable internet connection
____ (optional, but highly recommended) Printer

Recreational Activities. We will provide many opportunities for students to connect with each other recreationally and socially! Some of these might look like at-home workouts (such as yoga, or dancing, etc); some may look like games to play together (such as board games, chess, etc); and all will be planned/implemented/supervised by counselors! Students should bring ideas for how they want to engage with their peers outside of the academic sessions!!

ACCEPTABLE USE OF ELECTRONICS

Traditionally at MathPath, recreational electronic devices are not permitted without pre-authorization, and are strongly discouraged. We will continue to consider it a disciplinary matter if a student is found to be playing electronic games during MathPath sessions that are not official MathPath events.

MathPath students will be expected to follow our Acceptable Use of Electronics Policy, including the Online Behavioral Expectations and Agreement. MathPath will rely on students' families to help enforce these expectations.

ACTIVITIES MONEY

RECOMMENDED SPENDING MONEY: $60-75 USD FOR 3 WEEKS

Some activities may require families to purchase supplies in order for students to participate (i.e. origami). We suggest families have a budget of $60-75 for these activities. MathPath staff will

provide sufficient notice and recommendations as to what items to purchase (including sometimes providing vendors through which to make a specific purchase).

[Return to Contents](#)

II. CONTACTING MATHPATH

The MathPath phone number, **610-616-3211,** connects to Program Director April Verser. April can also be reached via email at april.verser@mathpath.org.

All serious concerns about students should be voiced to April, and she will forward concerns to others if necessary.

April will have "office hours" during which she or her assistant can be reached directly on the phone line, and during which she will respond to emails. In case of an emergency outside of these office hours, please call the MathPath number and leave a voicemail. Staff will immediately review all voice messages.

Please **do not attempt** to contact individual faculty members, counselors, or other staff members. Please direct all concerns, questions, or requests to April. This applies to all forms of communication – phone calls or texts, emails, postal mail, etc.

SENDING MAIL

If for any reason you must mail something to MathPath, please send it to Program Director April Verser at the address below:

> MathPath
> c/o April Verser
> 265 N Oakhurst Dr, Apt 24
> Aurora, IL 60504

[Return to Contents](#)

III. VISITING MATHPATH

Parents/guardians and relatives are invited to attend the MathPath opening session; preferably from the same device as their MathPath student. They are also invited to attend the closing session, which includes a final plenary, the acknowledgement of all students completing the program, followed by a variety show. Further details will be sent to parents/guardians by email.

Beyond the opening and concluding days of the program, we suggest that parents/guardians and other relatives do not drop-in on MathPath sessions more than once or twice. Students form strong relationships with their intellectual peers at MathPath; excessive involvement from parents/guardians and other relatives can erode the value of these interactions.

Return to Contents

IV. DAILY LIFE

ACADEMICS

The daily schedule for our academic week, which runs Mon–Sat, is accessible at
www.mathpath.org/day.htm

Attendance at all academic sessions is *required.* We will be checking for attendance at sessions throughout the day.

Each week, students submit their course preferences after a description of each course is given at "Show and Tell". Popular courses often require a lottery to keep our classes balanced, and there are no guarantees for students to get any given choice. Parents/guardians may discuss the breakout choices with students before they come to MathPath, but we strongly encourage students to make their own decisions once they arrive and hear the Show and Tell. Students won't have full and up-to-date information until they attend Show and Tell, and then it is their choice how to rank them. We will not entertain requests from parents/guardians to enroll or switch students in breakouts.

ACTIVITES

During activity breaks throughout the day, MathPath counselors and staff will announce and chaperone different activities. Examples of such activities include: origami, arts & crafts, chess, board/card games, dance, yoga, etc. Students will be expected to participate in at least the one activity session in the middle of the day, and may choose to participate in up to three activity sessions per day. Participation in activities requires a sign-up, and students must choose one activity per free-time. Some activities will require supplies and a sign-up well in advance. MathPath staff will publicize these activities with plenty of time for families to make any necessary purchases and be prepared for these activities.

On Sundays, MathPath staff will offer a variety of activities that may take more than one hour to participate (such as DnD, or virtual escape rooms, etc). These activities will be optional, and will be publicized to families in advance to assist with decision-making.

Activities may change from week to week depending on interest and availability.

For answers to further questions about our program, please write to Program Director April Verser at april.verser@mathpath.org.

V. SAFETY AND WELL-BEING PROTOCOL

The safety of all participants is the highest priority at MathPath. The following protocol will be in effect throughout the program:

1. Each student will be assigned to a counselor, who will be specifically responsible for the student's well-being. Students are expected to follow all directions of any MathPath staff member for the safety of themselves and others. Students are expected to inform a staff member if for any reason they feel unsafe.

2. Students will be expected to comply with the Online Behavior Agreement and then general Behavioral Expectations of MathPath. Cyber-bullying or bullying of any nature will absolutely not be permitted. If a student is being made to feel uncomfortable in any way by another person at MathPath, that student should inform a MathPath staff member immediately. If a parent/guardian comes to know of such a circumstance, that parent/guardian should inform a MathPath staff member immediately.

3. In the case of a serious medical problem or other emergency affecting the student, MathPath will attempt to notify parents or guardians as soon as possible, while prioritizing medical attention for the student. Once parents/guardians are notified or a medical professional (such as EMT crew) has been notified, MathPath Staff will no longer be responsible.

4. In the case of a serious illness, parents/guardians may consider removing their child from program activities for one or more days as appropriate. In this event, parents/guardians should write to Program Director April Verser to provide updates on the student's ability to participate, including when the student may return.

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