



Morgan Hill Math

Elementary School Programs FAQs

Program Goal: To promote the advancement of mathematics and critical thinking skills amongst school age children (grades 4-6) in Morgan Hill.

Program Description: Morgan Hill Math has two different classes for elementary students: Mathletics, for 4th and 5th graders and MathCounts6, for 6th graders. Each class will meet weekly for one hour after school, one day a week for eight weeks, starting in October. Both programs will focus on problem solving.

Mathletics (4th and 5th graders) will review the ten basic problem solving techniques, tackling both multi-step word problems (similar to those found in the “Creative Problem Solver”) and more challenging “out of the box” thinking problems, such as those found on the Math Olympiad.

MathCounts6 (6th graders) will shift focus slightly, picking up new skills in probability, combinatorics, statistics and number theory, again through word problems. This will help increase the depth and breadth of their mathematical knowledge. A small group of students will continue to train in January and compete in a regional MATHCOUNTS competition, held in February.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Is there a charge for the program?

A: No, the program is free. It is a community service to Morgan Hill from the American Institute of Mathematics, a non-profit group whose mission is to advance the frontiers of mathematical knowledge.

Q: How are participants selected?

A: On the day of the tryout, we will give students a quiz to assess their problem solving skills, passion for math and behavior. We'll invite the top students to join our fall program via email by late June.

Q: Is there homework?

A: There is no homework. We do, however, have an “Extra for Experts” program, where kids can bring home a worksheet pertaining to the topic of the day. They can work on the problems by themselves, with a peer or with a parent. Good efforts are rewarded with stickers; an accumulation of stickers can be turned in for small prizes.

Q: Where and when will you meet?

A: Barrett Elementary School has graciously offered to host our afterschool program for students across the district. Located at 895 Barrett Avenue, the school is easy to access from the Tennant Ave exit off of Highway 101. Mathletics (4th and 5th grade) will meet after school on Tuesdays for approximately one hour (3:15-4:30 pm, with some students not arriving until 3:30pm); MathCounts6 will meet after school on Thursdays, also for one hour (4-5pm). Each program will start the first week of October and continue 7 weeks, until the week before Thanksgiving.

Q: What type of learner do you think will enjoy Morgan Hill Math?

A: Morgan Hill Math will most likely appeal to those students who enjoy math, learning at a fast pace and solving problems. We play SET, Sudoku and sometimes work in groups, but much of the work is through direct instruction and paper and pencil work. We find that one of the huge benefits of the program is that the kids enjoy working with like-minded peers and learning from each other.

Q: Do you have any more specific guidelines about who might be successful at your program?

A: In general, those students who enjoy our program: 1) easily grasp new concepts 2) have math skills are beyond their grade level 3) have an A in math and score in the “Advanced” range on the STAR CST (California Standardized Test). The program is NOT for Math tutoring or remedial work.

Q: We cannot make any of the tryouts. What can we do?

A: This year we are offering five different tryout dates, so we expect that families will be able to make at least one of them. Note that attendance at one of the tryouts by a parent and their student is MANDATORY to be considered for the program. If you have extenuating circumstances, please call the program director, Lori Mains at (408) 710-0643.

Q: Who should attend the tryout meeting... parent, student or both?

A: Both. The parents will attend an information session while the kids take an assessment quiz.