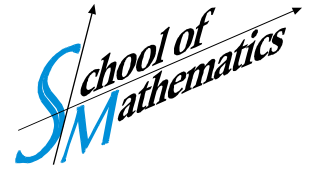


MetroWest School of Mathematics

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Dear Parents,

The month of February has flown by, we hope our students had good rest during the winter vacation and will come next week refreshed, recharged, and full of energy to tackle the challenges through the rest of the year.

We would like to remind everybody that **the school schedule has been adjusted** to accommodate the growing number of students and provide the parents and teachers with much needed room between classes, so they can touch base with each other more frequently, be aware about the students progress, and address any issues before they are escalated.

NEW SCHEDULE:

<http://www.metrowestschool.com/Schedule%20and%20Calendar%2006-07.htm>

The new schedule will take effect right after the winter break on Monday, February 25th.

Sunday:

Geometry 10:45am - 12:45pm, Algebra-1 12:55pm - 2:55pm,
EM5 11:00am – 1:00pm, EM4 1:10pm - 3:10pm, EM5 3:20pm - 5:20pm
Pre-Algebra 3:05pm - 5:05pm, Pre-Algebra 5:15pm – 7:15pm

Monday:

EM1 4:15pm – 5:45pm
EM3, EM4 no change

Tuesday:

EM1 no change
EM2 5:45pm – 7:45pm
EM4 no change

Wednesday:

Chess no change
EM2 3:55pm – 5:55pm, EM2 6:05pm – 8:05pm
EM5 6:10pm – 8:10pm
Intro to Algebra 6:15pm – 8:15pm

Thursday, Friday – no change

TRIAL MCAS TESTS:

Coming March, we will be administering trial MCAS tests for all classes level 3 and up. We will use the real tests given for the appropriate grades in 2007. Our Pre-Algebra classes have already passed this test during the make-up class on February 17. This testing tends to pursue several goals. Although, we expect that the vast majority of our students will do well on the practice tests, it never hurts to check. We also believe that the students feel challenged by our curriculum and a good boost of confidence by doing well on a standardized test will be helpful. If we discover that in some instances the help is needed, we will be able to correct the situation between now and May, when the 2008 tests are administered by the Department of Education.

Please note that since our classes are grouped by level rather than by their day school grades, some students will be taking the trial MCAS for a different grade than their day school grade. For example, our Pre-Algebra students some of whom are in the 5th grade in their regular school took the 6th Grade MCAS test. **We are glad to report that all of our 5th grades got Proficient or higher on this 6th grade test!** We believe that the test should correspond to the level rather than the grade - but if you would like your child to be offered MCAS for a different grade than given in his or her class, please contact Dr. Charny at anna@metrowestschool.com and she will provide you with the appropriate materials for an additional take-home test. If your child misses the class when MCAS is administered, please contact your teacher and get the materials to take home. All your child needs is 2 hours of quiet time to do the test at home.

If you have any additional questions regarding MCAS or other academic matters, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Charny.

MID-YEAR REPORT CARDS:

Some parents have inquired about mid-year report cards they are accustomed to receive. Given that we changed the format of the mid-year testing and were concentrated primarily on the school assessment, we decided not to send mid-year report cards to the students. However, looking ahead, we expect to perform a series of year-end assessments, this time targeting more detailed individual student performance evaluation by the year-end. You should expect a detailed report of your child's performance at the end of the school year.

SUMMER SCHOOL:

We are happy to announce that the schedule for the summer program is near complete (see attached). Thanks to everybody for the tremendous support of our summer program and a lot of interest to it. We plan to offer 6-week enrichment math program for children in all grades including SAT-I preparation. We will also offer a comprehensive SAT-I English course. While most classes will meet once or twice a week in the afternoons starting July 7th, 2008, SAT-I Math preparation classes will meet 4 times per week for a total of 12 instructional hours per week. The majority of the classes are scheduled after 4:00pm to allow your children to enjoy the regular summer activities before plunging into math.

There many reasons why we recommend the summer program:

- It is intended for any students recently joined the school and wishing to catch up with their peers. The students taking MWSM classes during the summer will be able to **skip the**

beginner level or **jump on to a higher level** next year, based on grades earned at the Summer school.

- The Summer School will provide opportunity for the students who wish to study **advanced mathematics** and **prepare for John Hopkins University Test, AMC-8** and other competitions.
- **For the students preparing to take SAT-I**, Summer School is a great way to practice and improve their scores without the pressure from many other activities that builds up during the school year.
- **For the students who feel challenged by the math curriculum** in the past academic year this is a perfect chance to boost their confidence and address the shortcomings in 6 short weeks.

TUITION:

I would like to reiterate the importance of paying tuition on time. We have recently sent invoices to everybody who has not paid for the second semester. We would like to thank everybody who promptly responded with his or her payments. If you have not done so, please consider it to be your top priority. Please contact us, if you have any difficulties paying the entire amount at once and we will figure out together a suitable payment plan. The school is a small enterprise and the tuition is our sole financial resource required for operation. If there is any question about the payment, please do not hesitate to contact Boris Serebrennikov (boris@metrowestschool.com).

SNOW CANCELLATIONS AND MAKE-UP: We are successfully crunching up the winter. Hopefully, not that many snow storms are left, but we live in New England and we all know how unpredictable the weather is. We are trying to reschedule the classes cancelled due to the weather as soon as it is feasible, but still owe you a few make-up classes scheduled for the end of the school year. If your child cannot make the scheduled make-up class, please try to bring him in for the other class on the same level. You can find up to date schedule on our website: www.metrowestschool.com. To avoid the unnecessary trips to the school, when it is cancelled due to the snow storms, **please always check whether the school is in session either by calling us at (617) 851-3912 or checking the banner on the our website**. Please note that the school weather cancellations will be announced by 1:00 pm.

DROP-OFF, PICK-UP POLICY:

We want to emphasize **the necessity for you to accompany your child, and especially children younger than 12 years old, to and from the school**. The school policy does not allow children to leave the building unaccompanied by an adult. If you cannot pick up your child on time, please ask him/her to wait for you either in the waiting room or in our office upstairs. As soon as we collect the majority of drop-off/pick-up policy forms, we will start enforcing this policy more rigorously and will ask all our teachers to monitor kids getting in and out more closely.

OFFICE:

I have already mentioned the office. We do have an office on the second floor of the building – accessible via the staircase by the parent waiting room. Beginning this semester, we have established official office hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 6:00pm until 8:00pm and Wednesday from 7:00pm till 8:00pm with Dr. Charny, Boris Serebrennikov or myself present during these hours. However, if you want to meet a particular member of our management team, please try to schedule an appointment preferably by email. Our emails

are: Anna@metrowestschool.com, Boris@metrowestschool.com, and Olga@metrowestschool.com.

2008/09 ENROLLMENT:

Even though it is still February and the new school year seems to be very far ahead, we have started working on the new 2008/2009 schedule. We are considering to expand the offerings of classes to include Algebra-II, SAT-I (Math and English), and SAT-II preparation. We are also investigating the possibility to offer variety of courses such as physics, chemistry and languages. We appreciate your input to determine any additional areas of interest.

MWSM ANNUAL GALA – BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION:

We would like to start a tradition of celebrating the school's birthdays and are exploring the possibility to throw a party some time in the middle of May, where we all can meet face to face, reflect on the year results, discuss the direction moving forward and have some fun along the way.

Given how talented all your kids are, we are suggesting a different format for our party. **Let it be a Talent Show! Let your children shine!** I am pretty sure most of them are very involved in activities other than math. Probably some play musical instruments, some can sing, or dance, or play in a school theater. We all will enjoy seeing your children perform; doing something they and you are very proud of. In addition, they (with your help of course) can think about doing some skits together as the groups. It can be anything school related: may be something funny they have observed in classes, something about our school, or even about their teachers. Isn't it wonderful to be able to laugh together? That not necessarily have to be divided along the classes lines, kids attending different classes can do it together.

We want to create a sense of community, a place where the students are coming willingly knowing that they not only study in their otherwise free time, but meet their friends both old and new. Our school is immensely diverse: we all brought our unique experience and cultural background and it would be wonderful to share it with the rest of us.

Everything I have said implies that to make this happen we would need a lot of your help in preparation and coordination of all activities. If we are on the same page, I need to hear from you as soon as possible. We will form a team of parents willing to volunteer their time helping to coordinate the students' show. As soon as I hear positive responses to this proposal, we will start searching for an appropriate venue ready to accommodate us. The concert shall not be longer than 30-45 minutes, so we need to know in advance, who will surprise us with their performances.

I should admit that I have not invented an idea of such a party: it has been a long-standing tradition in Russian School of Mathematics, the tradition RSM students and alumni cherish a lot and remember for years. We plan to invite our friends and partners from RSM to become a part of our tradition and celebrate our proud moments together.

I hope to hear from you soon. We appreciate any feedback and will be ready to discuss your proposals.

Best regards,

Olga Serebrennikov
MWSM Co-Director, Parents Relations