

**Business Hours**  
**Noon – 3.30pm**

Dear Parents & Students,

Hello and welcome to e-learning for this class! I hope you are all doing well and have settled into e-learning with Banff. Now that you've had some practice at e-learning, it's time to add Math Enrichment!

Prior to Spring Break, students were preparing for the Math League Competitions planned for April and working through past tests packets. Due to the current situation with school closures, Math League has announced that competitions will still be held but provisions are being made for students to test from home and for schools to set their own test date from mid-April until early May. I will be discussing dates with Mrs. Saul's, but late April/Early May is my preference under the circumstances. This will allow more time for practice and for students to get back into the swing of things. As so many families are juggling work, homeschooling multiple kids (and hunting for groceries!), I don't want to overburden students – or parents- so I will assign a partial test packet rather than a whole one for the moment i.e. students should complete just 1 page per week. I think this will be more manageable for most families but of course it will slow progress down somewhat. If that's too much/not enough then please let me know.

Success on the tests depends on 3 things:

- (i) Content knowledge.
- (ii) Accuracy.
- (iii) Timing/Speed.

Students need to work first on learning/mastering the material, and next on timing. My recommendation for improving performance on the test is that students should work without a timer initially, but on later packets start using a timer and noting where they got to before the timer sounded but continue working on as many more problems as they can. At the end they can compare their overall score to the score they would have got had they stopped when the timer went off. The goal is for them to try to solve as many problems as possible, yet at the same time give them a feel for timing. Once they know the material, speed should improve if they do this regularly. This is entirely optional and is only a suggestion.

***WORK SMARTER NOT HARDER!***

This is our class moto! If a student (or mathlete!) is doing too many calculations, or arithmetic is getting long and unwieldy, then they are probably working a lot harder than necessary and not solving the problem in the most efficient way. They are not using their critical thinking/ creative problem-solving skills! **Parents - if you see this happening, please remind them of our class motto!**