**Dear Parents:**

**Re: Optional 3rd Grade ICTM Statewide School Math Competition**

Half Day 3rd grade students can participate this year in a statewide math contest sponsored by ICTM (Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics). Our school will be competing against other Illinois schools.

Contest questions reflect the NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) Standards spirit of problem solving and encourage the use of calculators. The team competition promotes cooperation amongst students. Problems are written to challenge student thinking, leading to further appreciation and exploration of mathematics.

The contest consists of three competitions given at Half Day School each in December, February and April. There is no offsite competition. Overall awards are sent to schools after the third contest results are tabulated. The top 10 schools at each grade level will receive certificates and be recognized in the ICTM Bulletin. ***Last year, our 3rd grade placed 1st in the state, while our 4th grade placed 2nd.***

**Each grade level contest** consists of two parts: team competition and individual competition.

Scores of the top two teams and top ten individuals count toward the school total.

* **The team competition** consists of 4-5 members who work together on 20 questions for 25

minutes. Half Day School can create as many 5 member teams as we wish.

* **The individual competition** consists of independent student work on 8 questions for 20 minutes.  About a week after each competition, individual and group scored answer sheets, problems and correct answers will be returned to the students so they can learn from this experience.

**December Contest Schedule:**

**Individual competition**: During recess in room 208 at Half Day:

             Tuesday December 1 Chemers, Degman, McLelland, Powell

             Wednesday December 2 Becker, Joseph, Lau, Walsh

               **Group Competition**: In cafeteria before school:

 Friday December 4 All students at 8:15 AM in cafetorium.

 Parents will provide transportation for their own child to Half Day arriving no later than 8:15 AM.

**If your child is interested in participating in the three contests, please e-mail me at** **rwilcox@d103.org****. Include your child’s name and their teacher’s name. I will be contacting you via this e-mail so please make sure it is an e-mail you use actively.**

Examples of individual and group competition questions are attached. Answers and additional questions for practice are posted on my Half Day webpage at <http://rwilcox103.weebly.com/>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at rwilcox@d103.org or 847-634-6463.

Sincerely,

Ruth Wilcox

Enrichment Specialist @ Half Day School