

## Math Circles Student Guide

### Introduction

Welcome to the Math Circles program. We are glad that you have chosen to be part of our learning community. Here, students like you come to learn mathematics with like-minded peers, under the careful guidance of teachers who are experts mathematics, as well as in the art of teaching it to others. Through your effort and participation in the program, you will gain the thinking skills that will benefit you for life, not only for entering the program of your choice at university, but to make sound decisions and doing so with confidence!

Our goal is to make this year a joyful and a successful one, where you will feel a sense of accomplishment after solving many difficult and challenging mathematical problems. It will not be easy, but if you persevere you will see yourself grow in both your understanding and enjoyment of mathematics. To support you in your efforts, we are providing you with this guide, meant to answer any questions that may arise. This guide aims to give you a roadmap on how to make the most out of your participation in the program.

### Schoology

Math Circles uses a platform called Schoology for the online learning component. Participation is mandatory.

*\* Schoology is a separate software so all students will need to create a new account that is separate from their Math Potentials registration account. The access code is emailed to all students prior to the first class.*

*\*Returning students: please note that we have moved from Wikispaces to Schoology this year.*

In Schoology you will find:

- Summaries of lessons
- Homework assignments and answer keys (**students must check their answers before class**)
- Recorded YouTube video solutions to selected homework problems
- Access to live online tutorials (Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta) and previous recordings
- Online comment board for students to interact and discuss homework (not monitored by Math Potentials)
- Student Tutoring Program information

### **Live Online Homework Help Tutorials (WizIQ)**

Math Circles offers live online tutorials for the first four levels (Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta) following every class, using the WizIQ virtual classroom software.

Each online tutorial is one hour long. Tutorial times and dates can be found on our website, at [MathPotentials.com/homework](http://MathPotentials.com/homework).

With multiple students coming together in an online tutorial, noise can become an issue. Students are asked to be in a quiet environment during the tutorials and use headphones.

To join the tutorials, log into your Schoology account and click on the “Live Tutorials” folder.

If you miss a tutorial, a recording will be posted in your Schoology account within 24 hours following the tutorial.

### **Homework**

We try to stay consistent across all campuses by posting homework assignments on our online learning platform, Schoology. Sometimes teachers may deviate from the general homework assignment depending on what their students achieved that day in class. If you see there is a mismatch between what’s posted online and what the teacher assigned in class, follow the teacher’s instructions. We encourage you to push yourself and attempt the posted homework as well.

In the classroom, not all the homework questions will get answered. Usually only the first 15 minutes of class is set aside to go over questions, so that the rest of class can be used to cover the next lesson. Teachers have all been instructed to not review questions that have solutions posted on the online homework platform. For this reason, it’s important that you take the time before class to work through the homework help videos and attend the live online tutorials for homework support.

### **Expectations**

- Students must create their own Schoology account, which is separate from any other account they have with Math Potentials.
- Students are expected to check the online answer keys through their Schoology account before attending the next class.
- Students are expected to attempt all homework problems, but not necessarily to complete them all. Sometimes there are questions that are extra challenging, and the teacher will explicitly say they are optional.
- Most Alpha and Beta classes assign “practice problems” and “challenging problems” for homework. If you find the challenging ones too difficult, just focus on the practice ones.
- Students who regularly struggle with most of the assigned homework should talk to their teacher to check if the level is right for them.

## **Tests and Assessments**

In Math Circles there are no formal tests or exams; however, teachers will give from time to time short informal quizzes in order to assess the extent to which the students have internalized the past material and to make sound instructional decisions. Students can expect to be invited to the board to demonstrate their thinking and share their solution processes. This is not meant to evaluate their performance but rather to give them an opportunity to learn and to contribute to class discussion, thus learning to communicate mathematically - a very important skill for collaborative problem solving which is in high demand in the modern world.

## **Missing a Class**

If you miss a class, don't panic! You can make up the class at any of our campuses. Simply notify both instructors via email (your original instructor and the instructor at the make-up class campus), at least 3 days in advance (we recommend one to two weeks in advance). Please note, it is no problem to make up a few classes during the year, but we expect students to be committed to attending one main location. If you need to change campuses permanently, please contact our administrative team at [info@mathpotentials.com](mailto:info@mathpotentials.com).

If you are unable to make up the class at another campus, take advantage of all your online resources in Schoology (class summaries, homework, YouTube videos, Live Tutorial recordings).

## **Bring a Friend**

Students are encouraged to bring one friend to attend a class with them per year. Simply notify your instructor and [info@mathpotentials.com](mailto:info@mathpotentials.com) with at least 3 days' notice if you plan on bringing a friend.

## **Class Dates, Times and Locations**

Under the "Math Circles" tab on our website, you will always be able to see all the class dates, times and locations. You will also be able to check this information on the back cover of your binder.

## **Class cancellation**

In the very rare occasion that a class is cancelled (generally due to dangerous weather circumstances), we will reschedule the class as soon as possible. You will be notified via email of the cancellation. If it has been snowing, please check our website (home page) a couple hours before class starts to confirm if classes are cancelled or not.

## **Instructor Contact Information**

For questions regarding student progress and/or missing a class, please email your teacher.

For all other questions, email our admin team at [info@mathpotentials.com](mailto:info@mathpotentials.com) or phone us at (604) 357-1940. Please include the student name, level and campus in all communications so that we can best assist you.