

My two cents on the subject of Math Competition:

Is math competition good or bad for our kids? First of all, I am not against math competition. Are you kidding me? I am the one who get all excited to take Rockwell teams to compete in Math. I could not even sleep that well the night before a competition, and I am not the one who has to solve those math problems. So I am all for it because I do see the many benefits from it. The most immediate value of these math contests is obvious - they pique students' interest in math. Kids love games, and many will turn just about any activity into a contest. Math contests thus inspire them to become good at mathematics just like sports encourage physical fitness.



For better or worse, *much of life is competition*. Our kids someday will compete for their ideal jobs, resources, or whatever. Any type of competition will train students to deal with success and failure, and will teach them that to be great at something requires practice. On top of that, almost every interesting worthwhile venture in life comes with some element of pressure; competition teaches our kids how to handle it. These are reasons why I would like to make math competitions available to Rockwell students.

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"It is not enough to have a good mind. The main thing is to use it well."

By Rene Descartes (1596-1650).