

Team

Math

A

Building

**Andy Zapata**

**Azle High School**



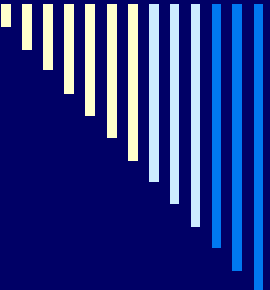


# Building A Math Team

**A  
N  
D  
Y  
  
Z  
A  
P  
A  
T  
A**

- Azle Junior High → 1974 – 1982
- Azle High School → 1982 – Present
- 1 granddaughter
- 1 grandson
- Co-founder TMSCA (1981)
- Practice test writer 35+ years
- [azapata@azleisd.net](mailto:azapata@azleisd.net)
- Current UIL MS Number Sense, Calculator, Mathematics Consultant

---



# Building A Math Team Start 'em Young!





# Building A Math Team

## □ The Foundation □

### □ WHY?

- There are individual achievements rewarded.
  - There are group effort “TEAM” achievements rewarded.
  - Students are more likely to try . . . and keep trying . . . to achieve success in math competition if they have someone else to learn from and to share the experience with.
  - More students at your school get involved with an extracurricular activity that benefits the school’s standardized test taking activities.
-



---

# Building A Math Team

## □ The Foundation □

- What contests do my students compete in?
    - What contests do I feel comfortable working with?
    - What are the math type contests?
      - Number Sense
      - Calculator Applications
      - Mathematics
-



# Building A Math Team

## □ The Foundation □

- Getting Started
  - You decide initially when you want to work with the students.
  - Do some homework
    - Research what the different contests are about.
    - Go to the UIL Academic website and search the website for contest information, contest resources. ([www.uiltexas.org](http://www.uiltexas.org))
    - Get a TMSCA newsletter and join TMSCA. ([www.tmsca.org](http://www.tmsca.org))
-



# Building A Math Team

## □ The Foundation □

- What are some of the economics of building a math team?
    - Practice tests cost money.
      - \$1.00 - \$5.00 per test master.
    - Going to and having students compete at practice meets costs money.
      - \$4 - \$6 per test taken.
      - \$100 - \$200 transportation costs for local travel.
    - Calculators cost money.
      - \$45 - \$125 per calculator.
-



---

# Building A Math Team

- The Foundation □
- Where can I get some resources ?

**CHEAP !!!**

- Other coaches will sometimes SHARE.
  - You can make your own worksheets and practice tests.
  - Some test writers will provide samples of their materials at no charge.
-





---

# Building A Math Team

## □ Building The Team □

- Get your administration and parents on board.
    - Let your principal know what is happening.
    - Put together an invitation letter to parents of students that come to the first organizational meeting. Invite the parents as well as your principal to a evening meeting in your room to explain what your goals for the math team are.
    - Be ready to talk about your commitment as well as the commitment you expect from the child.
-



# Building A Math Team

## □ Building The Team □

- Get your administration and parents on board.
    - Keep the meeting as short as possible.
    - Talk about the benefits of math team competition; the tournaments you would like the students to compete in; the potential costs to the student.
      - You may have to ask the child to pay entry fees.
      - The calculators costs anywhere from \$45 to \$125.
    - Talk about the three contests you will work on with their child and the benefits of each contest.
    - Talk about the practice times.
-



---

# Building A Math Team

## □ Building The Team □

- Get your administration and parents on board.
    - If there are special forms for parents to fill out with regard to district responsibilities when transporting their child to competition, be sure to have some available.
    - Be Positive, Excited and Committed!
-



---

# Building A Math Team

## □ Building The Team □

- Get out the word that something exciting is happening.
    - Posters, Intercom Announcements, Announcements made by GT teachers, District-wide newsletter announcement to parents, first PTO meeting
    - Be sure to include the **Who, What, Where & When.**
    - Talk to fellow teachers (especially of math classes) to be on the watch for gifted math students.
-



---

# Building A Math Team

## □ Building The Team □

- Get out the word that something exciting is happening.
    - Be flexible about sign up times.
    - Be aware you are competing with other extra curricular organizations.
    - Be Positive, Excited and Committed!
-



# Building A Math Team

## □ Building The Team □

- At the first team meeting ask the students which of their friends could not be there and why.
  - Ask the students if any of them had competed before or had even heard of math team competition.
  - After telling the students about the three different math contests, ask them individually which contest sounds the best to them to compete in.
-



---

# Building A Math Team

## □ Building The Team □

- If you have another teacher/adult helping you with the different contests:
    - Assign different locations/times for the students and coaches to meet.
    - Try to set up the schedule so that the students can practice on different contests.
    - Encourage the students to try the other contests.
    - Encourage students to get their own calculator.
-



---

# Building A Math Team

## □ Building The Team □

- If you DO NOT have another teacher or adult helping you with the different contests:
    - Assign different times for the students and you to meet.
    - Try to set up the schedule so that the students can practice on different contests.
-





---

# Building A Math Team

## □ Building The Team □

- Keep practice sessions to 1½ – 2 hours only.
  - Use the beginning time to teach concepts.
  - Have short worksheets that cover the material taught.
  - Have students work together on worksheets.
  - Have students work on some worksheets where their efforts are timed.
-



---

# Building A Math Team

## □ Building The Team □

- Help students to set personal goals.
    - So many number sense or calculator problems attempted.
    - A certain score obtained.
    - A certain time to work so many problems.
    - A certain number of facts to be memorized.
    - Have extra practice material ready to send home.
-



---

# Building A Math Team

## □ Building The Team □

- Help students to set team goals.
    - Have students query each other on memorized facts.
    - Set team score goal.
    - Have students grade each other's test papers.
    - If possible, divide team members up into teams of three or four students randomly and have a friendly competition.
-



---

# Building A Math Team

## □ Building For The Future □

- Encourage the older students to share with the younger students.
  - From time to time ask if there are any other students in the school that might help the team grow in quality. Look especially for the younger students.
  - Find ways to make the practices FUN.
  - Stay Positive, Excited and Committed!
-



---

# Building A Math Team

## □ Building For The Future □

- At the end of the school year try to have a math team party. Invite the parents as well.
  - Visit with the parents and let them know again how much change you have seen in their child and how much they have improved over the school year.
  - Be sure to let the parents as well as the students know of your personal future goals for the team.
-

---



# Building A Math Team

## □ Building For The Future □

- Be sure to keep master copies of past year's contest materials.
  - Keep records of individual as well as team scores for future benchmarks.
-



# Building A Math Team

□ Resources □

## HP 35s

Amazon	\$53.79
Wal Mart	\$53.88
Best Buy	\$95.16

## Ti-84 Plus

Amazon	\$103.66
Wal Mart	\$125.97
Best Buy	\$119.99

**As of 6/17/15**

---



# Building A Math Team

□ Resources □

## AMT Test Writing Service

- 675 Miller Rd., Azle, TX 76020
- [ghzapata@gmail.com](mailto:ghzapata@gmail.com)
- Phone: 817-444-3655

Offers Number Sense: ***Elements of Number Sense*** by Jim Cummings. Contains preparatory material for the Number Sense Contest

---



---



# Building A Math Team

□ Resources □

## **D & R Enterprises**

- 1101 W. Monte Cristo Rd. West, Edinburg, TX 78541
- Phone: 956-383-0372

***No Sense in Mathematics*** (4<sup>th</sup> edition). By Don Skow

---



---

# Building A Math Team

## □ Resources □

### **Hexco, Inc.**

- PO Box 199, Hunt, TX 78024-0199
- 800/725-2627; Fax: 830-367-3824
- Email: [hexco@hexco.com](mailto:hexco@hexco.com) Web site: [www.hexco.com](http://www.hexco.com)

Supplies materials for Dictionary Skills, Number Sense, and Spelling contests. Offers Dictionary Skills and Spelling practice tests. Also available, Spelling Complements for each graded list containing all the dictionary work for the *A+ Spelling List* and for Word Power, plus audio tapes, spelling software and spelling rules book. For Number Sense, offers software and practice tests.

---

---



# Building A Math Team

□ Resources □

## **Mental Mathematics for Number Sense**

- Frances Walzel
- 2023 CR 08, Cameron, TX 76520
- E-Mail: [walzel@vvm.com](mailto:walzel@vvm.com)

Offers 103-page booklet of problems, keys and coded pages for elementary and secondary number sense.

---

---



# Building A Math Team

□ Resources □

## **MRC Jr.**

- 1024 Scenic Drive, Justin, TX 76247
- Phone: 940-648-8587; Fax: 940-648-8580
- Email: [tomcat2243@ev1.net](mailto:tomcat2243@ev1.net)

Offers study materials and tests for Maps, Graphs and Charts, Dictionary Skills, 5/6 and 7/8 Social Studies, Science I, Science II, Number Sense and Mathematics.

---

---



# Building A Math Team

□ Resources □

## **Dr. Numsen/Doug Ray**

- PO Box 312578, New Braunfels, TX 78131
- Phone: (512) 797-2158; Fax: (208) 575-9617
- Email: [doug@academicmeet.com](mailto:doug@academicmeet.com)
- Web site: [www.academicmeet.com](http://www.academicmeet.com)

Provides workbooks and practice tests for elementary and junior high Number Sense, Calculator Applications and Mathematics.

---



# Building A Math Team

□ Resources □

**Leo Ramirez**

- 9801 W. Parmer Lane #2622, Austin, TX 78717
- Phone: (956) 491-3155 (cell)
- Email: [toywiz127@aol.com](mailto:toywiz127@aol.com)
- Website: <http://www.rammaterials.com/>

Number Sense, Calculator Applications, Mathematics, and Science Workbooks (including Number Sense: A Starter's Kit, Middle School Magic, Number Sense Magic, Revised Calculator Applications workbook), DVDs and practice tests. Mr. Ramirez is available for writing invitational meet tests and conducting workshops.

---



# Building A Math Team

☐ Resources ☐

## **TMSCA Test Pool**

- Texas Math/Sciences Coaches Association
- PO Box 206, Olney Texas, 76374-0206
- (940) 563-1005
- [TMSCA.org](http://TMSCA.org)

Offers study materials for math, number sense, calculator and science contests.

---



---

# Building A Math Team

## □ Resources □

The handbook, *Developing Middle School Number Sense Skills*, is available. It is the same edition first published in 1996. Stock #217. Cost: \$6.00.

University Interscholastic League

PO Box 8028

Austin, TX 78713-8028

512-471-5883

FAX 512-232-6471

---