



Greater Testing Concepts  
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Dear Coordinator,

Welcome to the first annual Mandelbrot Team Play contest. In reality, the Team Play has been in existence already for seventeen years, under the guise of the team test portion of the Mandelbrot Competition. We simply came to the conclusion this year that the competition would function more smoothly and better serve schools if it were reformatted as two separate contests. Besides, new beginnings are exciting.

So, welcome to the first annual Mandelbrot Team Play contest! The goal of this competition is to introduce students to accessible topics in high school mathematics in a creative manner; to foster effective teamwork; and to promote and develop scientific writing skills. We hope that your students enjoy the experience and benefit from taking part. All the forms associated with the Team Play may be downloaded from our web site—just click on the **Forms** link on the left sidebar and scroll to the bottom of that page. These include this welcome letter, instructions for administering the contest, the Team Play topics and tips sheets, and a student response sheet. The test originals and full solutions for each round will be emailed directly to coordinators prior to the first round.

The dates pertaining to the three rounds of the 2008 Mandelbrot Team Play are listed here.

Round	Contest window	Grading session
One	January 7–18, 2008	February 2, 2008
Two	February 4–15, 2008	March 1, 2008
Three	March 3–14, 2008	March 29, 2008

Please schedule the tests for a given round at any convenient point during the two week time frame indicated. If a conflict arises preventing participation during the designated weeks, please contact us in order to make alternate arrangements. Student papers should reach Greater Testing Concepts no later than the grading date shown in order to be included with the results for that round. Late papers will be graded at a special session two weeks later, and team standings brought up to date at that point. Note that we do not evaluate papers which arrive after the late grading session. *For coordinators who send papers via expedited mail:* please waive the requirement for signature upon delivery. This will ensure that your envelope is placed immediately in our secure P.O. Box, thereby reaching us sooner.

As with the Mandelbrot Competition, there are resources available for coordinators interested in helping students to prepare for the Team Play. Begin by working through the practice problems (with solutions) included with the Team Play topics. Compilations of past contests, *The Mandelbrot Problem Book* and *The First Five Years*, as well as *The Art of Problem Solving* may also be ordered at [www.artofproblemsolving.com](http://www.artofproblemsolving.com). As usual we plan to recognize the highest ranking schools, so the top five distinct schools will be awarded an engraved plaque to showcase. If you have any further questions regarding the contest, just check out the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) page at the web site, or contact us by sending email to [info@mandelbrot.org](mailto:info@mandelbrot.org). Enjoy the Team Play!

Sincerely,

Sam Vandervelde  
Competition Coordinator