

# Gauss Math Contest

## Contest Day Instructions

*Please read this document in FULL as it has new information for the 2026 contest year.*

Hello Contest Supervisors,

The contest is approaching, May 11 to 22, 2026! Below you will find some details regarding the contest platform for this year.

Contact Byron Elzinga (gauss@tdchristian.ca) if you have further questions.

### IMPORTANT

- 1) The Participant ID file was **ONLY sent to the main contact**. The main supervisor contact is responsible for assigning one code to each student and distributing internally, to any other supervising teachers participating in the Gauss contest this year at your school.
- 2) The Participant ID code is long. To view the full ID you might need to expand the column in the file. Do not include the 'ID:' text prefix or TDCHS School # when logging into the CEMC system.
- 3) The Participant ID is the **exact same for the practice and contest platforms**, please ensure you assign **the SAME ID to each student for both systems**.

### Rules to Read Before the Contest

By ordering CEMC contests, all contest supervisors and participants agree to these standards in addition to specific instructions included with each contest.

- 1) Participants must write the contest in-person at the school and must be **appropriately supervised in-person** for the entirety of the contest.
- 2) The contest must be completed by participants individually, without assistance.
- 3) The contest must be written on one day between **Monday, May 11, 2026 and Friday, May 22, 2026**. It is NOT permissible to have any participant write any earlier.
- 4) The online contest platform **will close at the end of the two-week period**.
- 5) No participant may write both the Grade 7 and the Grade 8 Gauss contests in the same contest year. The Grade 7 Gauss contest is intended for participants in Grade 7 and below. The Grade 8 Gauss contest is intended for participants in Grade 8 and below.
- 6) If accommodations are required for a participant due to a disability or condition as per an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or similar, contact Byron (gauss@tdchristian.ca) before the contest day.

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## Permitted Aids

- ❖ Graph paper, rulers, and compasses.
- ❖ Paper dictionaries for translation between English and another language. NOTE: Electronic translation devices are NOT permitted (including translation apps and websites).
- ❖ Calculating devices if they DO NOT have the following features:
  - Internet access
  - The ability to communicate with other devices
  - Previously stored information (e.g., formulas, programs, notes, etc.)
  - A computer algebra system
  - Dynamic geometry software
  - Examples of disallowed devices are the Casio ClassPad 300 series, HP Prime and TI-Nspire CAS.

## Accessing the Online Contest Materials for This Year's Contest

To access this year's Gauss contest, teachers must provide participants with the following:

- The weblink to the CEMC Contest Online Platform - <https://online.cemc.uwaterloo.ca>
- Unique participant IDs to log in to the online contest platform (1 per participant).
  - Note: If students attempted a practice contest, they must use the same Participant ID for the live contest.
- The live contest password (sent via email with contest PDFs on the first day of the Contest Period) to unlock this year's Gauss contest (do NOT give this to participants until the time of writing).

## Administering the Online Contest

Once all participants are assembled to begin the contest, ensure everyone has the following:

- ❖ The weblink to the CEMC Contest Online Platform. - <https://online.cemc.uwaterloo.ca>
- ❖ Unique participant IDs to log in to the online contest platform (1 per participant).
  - For better performance when accessing the platform, ensure that JavaScript is enabled on your Internet browser and that you are using an up-to-date browser (e.g., Chrome, Edge, Firefox, Safari).
  - It is highly recommended that the Google Translate function be turned OFF on your browser. While this is not a requirement, note that some functions may function differently.
- ❖ Optional: Printed copy of the Contest Questions – Teachers may choose to print the contest questions for participants to view while accessing the online contest.
- ❖ Participants MUST NOT open their Contest Questions until instructed to do so.

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## Starting and Supervising the Contest

Review the following information with your participants before they begin the online contest:

1. To maintain the integrity of the contest, participants must work individually
2. Participants must NOT discuss the questions during the contest
3. Participants must NOT share or discuss the contest questions or solutions with anyone outside of their school until May 25 (which is 48 hours after the two-week contest period has ended).
4. **Advise the participant to avoid random guessing, two points are earned for blank answers (max 20 points).**
5. Participants are to log in to the CEMC Contest Online Platform using their unique Participant ID. **The Participant ID is to be used in both the Participant ID field and the Password field.**
6. Participants can change the system language between English and French at the bottom of the login box or at any time from the menu at the top right corner of the screen. Participants will have the option to write the English or French contests regardless of which system language they select.
7. Each time participants log in, they will be brought to *the Student Information Form* and must complete or review the required fields.
8. Participants should read the *Contest Instructions* before attempting the contest.
9. Participants will only have access to the grade level of the contest they have indicated on their *Student Information Form*. If participants select the wrong contest level, they will have to go back into the *Student Information Form* to update the contest grade level.
10. In the next section, participants can select and open the contest. **They will need to enter the live contest password** from the teacher to access this year's contest. The timer begins when the contest is opened. Participants **cannot stop the timer** once they have opened the contest.
11. Participants will have **exactly 60 consecutive minutes** to write the contest and must click the 'Submit' button once they have completed the contest.
12. *If a student requires additional time, I recommend having them write first on paper and transcribing to the Online Portal after writing the contest.*
13. Prompt participants to log out of the system once they have submitted their contest.
14. Participants will not receive a score upon submitting their online contest, see Marking section below.

## Marking, Awards and Results

Scores will be emailed to the Contest Manager (Byron Elzinga, [gauss@tdchristian.ca](mailto:gauss@tdchristian.ca)) and sent to the individual schools in early June. An online tool to add names to the certificates will be available through the CEMC's certificate generating tool. More details on generating and printing certificates will be sent with the results in June.

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