



재미한인과학기술자협회
KOREAN-AMERICAN SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION
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Date: December 8, 2020

Dear NMSC Participants and Their Parents/Guardians,

We regret that the unfortunate incident happened during the NMSC exam last Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020. Larger than expected turnout resulted in the severe overloading of the system leading to the crash. Our IT team worked diligently to mitigate the situation and rebuilt a reliable exam presentation system. However, to be on a safe side, we are offering the retake exam with a slight policy change.

The retest will be offered **asynchronously** to reduce the burden on the IT system. Asynchronous test system is not new. It has been widely used in other prestigious American math competitions. At this point, we have come to an agreement that this may be the best option for this retest.

Under this system, students are allowed to log in anytime during the test day (see the dates below) to complete the exam under parent/guardian proctoring. **Students and parents/guardians** will be required to agree to the Code of Honor Conduct before the exam will begin. Any report of misconduct will disqualify honors that may be earned by the students.

The retake exam will be offered on the days listed below. Each grade will have access to log in for the exam anytime on the following dates with the 24-hour window.

- **Dec. 12, 2020, Saturday for the 4th to 7th Grades:** Exam site will be open 24 hours from 00:01 am to 11:59 pm in each time zone.
- **Dec. 13, 2020, Sunday for the 8th to 11th Grades:** Exam site will be open 24 hours from 00:01 am to 11:59 pm in each time zone.
- **Both days of Dec. 12 and 13 (2 pm to 5 pm EST/11 am to 2 pm PST):** HQ will provide proctors for those who cannot make it on the above designated dates or those who may not have parents/guardians proctoring. Please contact NMSC@ksea.org by Friday, Dec. 11 to request this service.
- **Test time permitted:** 60 minutes for the lower grades (the 4th to the 8th) and 75 minutes for the upper grades (the 9th to the 11th). Part 1 and Part 2 questions will be offered consecutively.
- **Test point assignments:** Allocated points are 100 points to Part 1 and 50 points to Part 2 to give more weight to the Part 2 questions.

We hope for your understanding for this exam format change. These exam questions are unique quality questions which have been prepared just for this event by the exceptional professionals. We wish the students would take this opportunity to challenge themselves. We hope we would be able to offer the traditional face-to-face NMSC event soon, as we have done before the COVID 19 restrictions. Under the current circumstance, however, we feel that this is our best option to complete this event in a timely and fair manner.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Haejung An, Vice President of KSEA
Dr. Jaedeok Kim, Math Competition Committee Chair