

Email #1. Sent on 5/26/2018

Hello!

**Please read this entire email (several times...after you have had your coffee). It contains many important pieces of information.**

The weather is warm, the rain has stopped (hopefully for a while), the birds are chirping and the students are crazy with excitement about math (hopefully)!

This must mean that it is ARML season!

We are looking forward to seeing everyone next weekend at Penn State.

This year will be somewhat challenging due to the continued construction that is underway at Penn State. I think that I have said this every year for 5 years. Some of the areas that we usually have access to are closed. This will force us to venture to areas of the university where we have never been before. To add to the complication, June 1 - 2, 2018 is when Penn State holds a large event for their alumni. Oh, let me not forget to mention that a few thousand Special Olympic Athletes will be on campus for the weekend as well for a competition.

As you can imagine, the logistics this year will be somewhat complicated.

The first wrinkle is that our ARML group will need to be in two different dorm areas. Some teams will be in East Halls while others will be in West Halls.

Most of us know where East Halls are located because that is where we have been staying for the last thousand years or so (give or take a few years here and there).

West Halls is on the other side of the earth.

While East Halls is easily (somewhat) accessible to the Bryce Jordan Center and the buildings where the Power and Team rounds will be held, West Halls is not equally accessible.

For this reason, we are providing bus service (a new concept for ARML) from West Halls to the Bryce Jordan and then to areas closer to the buildings for the Power and Team rounds on Saturday morning.

Bus service will also be provided between East and West Halls on Friday evening so that everyone can participate in the song contest, the talk provided by Sarah-Marie Belcastro, and mingle with other teams. The bus service can also be used to get to the Coaches\Proctor's meeting at the Forest Resources Building.

**Note, bus service will not be provided following the competition on Saturday. Teams will need to walk back to West Halls at the conclusion of the competition.**

Please see the attached map for clarification.

Be sure to provide this email and the attached map to the people providing transportation (Bus drivers etc.) for your team.

I have attached the logistical information sheet and the map of the university. Both of these documents contain information which is relevant to our housing situation this year.

The program and proctor manual are also both attached.

I will send additional information as it becomes available.  
We are so very much looking forward to seeing you at ARML.

See you soon!  
Mike Curry

Here is a list of the dorm areas where the teams have been assigned.

### **West Halls/Waring Commons**

BCA
BCPS ARML
Central Jersey
Chesapeake
Connecticut
Fairfax Mostly Middle Schoolers
Howard County
Lackawanna
Maine
New Hampshire
Ohio
Olympiads School
Ontario Math Circles
Phillips Academy
Raritan Valley Math Team
RI All-State ARML Team
Tidewater Math Circle Chesapeake VA
University of Toronto Schools
Vermont All Stars
West Virginia
Westchester Area Math Circle
Western PA
WWP^2
York University Math Circle

**EAST HALLS/Findlay Johnson Commons**

Eastern Massachusetts
Lehigh Valley
Montgomery
Nassau County
NYC Math Team
Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
Western Mass ARML

Email #2 Sent on 5/27/18

Hello again!

I hope you are enjoying your Sunday (and potentially Monday off).

**Please be sure to read the entire email. It contains many important pieces of information which are vital to your participation at ARML.**

Several forms, posters, and documents are attached to this email. Please be sure to print them all out prior to the event. The document which contains the location where your team will compete in the Power, Team, Individual, and Relay portions of the contest is included.

Here are the answers to the questions that I received since the last email update.

- Linens are provided in the dorms. Pillows and blankets, etc. are NOT provided. Please plan accordingly.
- There will be two buses on Friday Night (7:00pm - 11:30pm). The buses will run in the loop described on the map sent previously. The buses will run after the curfew of 11:00pm (on purpose) so that everyone has a way to get back to their assigned dorms.
- There will be four buses on Saturday (6:00am - 8:00am). The buses will run in the loop described on the map sent previously.
- There is no bus service after 8:00am on Saturday. Students and proctors will need to walk back to the Bryce Jordan Center after the Power Round concludes. The timing of the event which is specified on the event program takes this long walk into account.
- There is no bus service after the event is over (typically 4:00 - 4:30pm or so) on Saturday. Please utilize the map to get back to Waring Commons/West Halls or Findlay Johnson Commons/East Halls.
- Buses will depart from the same lot where they arrived originally. These locations are marked on the map. Campus police may be present to direct the buses and there will be no exceptions to this as these exceptions could potentially conflict with other campus events taking place throughout the campus on this very busy weekend. While some aspects of the planning may seem to be inefficient, it is important to realize that we are not the only group that is visiting Penn State next weekend.
- Both breakfast and lunch will be provided in the Bryce Jordan Center. Breakfast is a typical scrambled eggs with some other options offering (with coffee for adults!). Lunch will be served in the same place as the breakfast was served. There will be no need to leave the building. I am told that most dietary considerations are solvable. If an extenuating circumstance (allergy, gluten, etc.) exists, please shoot me an email so that I can relay that info to the catering staff. We are working with a professional catering staff which has much experience dealing with allergy concerns. Please be sure to reach out.
- We are hopeful that we can return to a fully renovated East Halls in 2019 (and beyond). The changes this year (and the past few years) have been due to the Penn States ongoing renovation and expansion projects. In general, we have very little influence over the policies which are put in place. As a visiting group, we are grateful to Penn State for accommodating us each year. ARML is appreciative of each team's continued support each year. We will continue to do our very best to provide a world-class event for your students. With all of this said, we apologize in advance for any hiccups that are experienced. For this year in particular, we had to reinvent the wheel. (This year we are trying out an oval shape it seems.....)

I hope that you will find this information useful as ARML draws near!

Best,  
Mike Curry  
ARML

Email #3 Sent on 5/27/18

Hello again!

I am hoping that this is the last email for today! This one concerns housing and roommate pairings.

**Please be sure to read the entire email. It contains many important pieces of information which are vital to your participation at ARML.**

Penn State has strict rules with regard to pairing an adult with a student. Unless the student and adult are related (mother-daughter or father-son), this type of pairing is strictly not allowed.

For our submitted roster, it was obvious that certain adult-student pairings were mother-daughter or father-son. This was because the last names of the individuals matched. These pairings were left intact (we hope).

In at least 30 other cases there were pairings between an adult and student of the same gender where the last name did not match. These pairings were automatically broken up. Where possible, the student was paired with another student (same gender) and the adult was paired with another adult (same gender). There will be no additional cost to the teams for undoing these pairings.

Unfortunately, it is not possible for me to obtain the roster to see how the students and adults who were in the same room were reassigned. I do not have access to this data at this time. I appreciate your understanding regarding this policy.

It is also not feasible for the housing staff to verify that this type of pairing is a mother-daughter or a father-son. Thus, these pairings were broken up automatically.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused by the late notification of this policy.

Aside from the policy described above, I would like to let you know of another policy which is being implemented this year. Changes to your roster when you arrive cause ARML to incur a charge of \$25 per change. This includes moving or changing roommate pairings and late additions. Students or adults who do not show up also cause ARML to incur a similar charge. It is understandable that circumstances exist where changes to the roster are unavoidable. With this in mind, it is important to note that it is not necessary to re-pair students who are in singles due to no-shows. It is financially better for the students to remain in singles rather than pair them on-site. There will be no additional cost to the team for situations such as these. ARML has not passed this charge on to teams participating at Penn State in the past due to the fact that the changes and additional charges have been minimal and understandable. Last year there were more than usual but it was still a manageable amount. I would not like to see the trend continue upward as this could impact the fees that teams pay to compete at ARML.

We are hopeful that changes to your rosters will be minimal when you arrive at Penn State.

If you would like to see your roster as it was submitted to Penn State this past Monday, you can login to the registration database and select "assigned rooms." As previously mentioned, I do not have access to the roster that includes the changes due to adult-student pairings which were broken up due to Penn State policy.

I hope that this information is useful.

Enjoy the rest of today!

If you have any question's please let me know.

Best,  
Mike Curry