

TECH DECEMBER CHALLENGE

This month's challenges are all Math Olympiad problems! Math Olympiad problems are designed to be challenging and make you think. You must use problem solving strategies to arrive at the answer. Sometimes more than one strategy might work, but some may be more efficient and flexible than others. Consider these problem solving strategies as you attack the problem:

- Draw a picture or diagram
- Make an organized list
- Make a table
- Solve a simpler, related problem first
- Find a pattern
- Experiment and be creative
- Work backwards

You must bring in the correct solution and identify which strategy (or strategies) you used to earn your blue Mastery Credit. Good luck!

There are 16 teams in the local basketball tournament. There can only be one winner. It will be a single-elimination style tournament. That is, a team will be out of the tournament after one loss. How many games will the championship team have to play?

Problem solving strategy: _____