

Hello Matthew, Saharsh, Saniya, Jasmine, and parents,

I am sorry this introductory note is long, but I wanted to be as complete as possible. I suggest you save this note for reference.

Your Calkins Road MS Science Olympiad coach has provided me with your names as members of the **Rocks and Minerals** team for this year. I hope you are looking forward to learning about rocks and minerals and some geology as much as I am looking forward to the opportunity of helping you prepare for the 2022 event. I see we have one "veteran" this year: Matthew Boufford worked on Fossils with me last year. I don't think I have worked with the others listed or any siblings during the 7 previous years that I have coached. If you wish to learn a bit about me visit the [About section of my webpage](#).

PARENTS: I have been provided with your e-mail addresses, but I cannot access the student e-mail addresses that I was given as I have no connection with the school except for this coaching role. Although I will continue to include parents in all my communications, it would be great if Saharsh, Saniya, and Jasmine could provide me with a direct e-mail address. I do have one for Matthew. Once I have a full set of contact information I will create a team list and send it to each of you. Phone contact information would be good to have also. My phone number is 585-203-1733. Add a second parent e-mail if desired. Most of my communication will be directed at the students, but parents will be copied on all communication.

In past years (before the pandemic), I have been able to meet with the team starting after Thanksgiving by having a weekly meeting at my house where I introduce new material. I have examples of virtually all the rocks and minerals you need to learn (multiple examples of most) and other props to help learn the material. And I truly enjoy sharing them with all of you. BUT, right now, I am not 100% comfortable meeting in person. The current rates of Covid infection are just too high for my wife and me to consider inviting others into our home even though we are both fully vaccinated. So, here is what I propose.

- 1) Starting next week and through December, I will post new material on my personal webpage ([here is a LINK](#)). The page is currently there and you will find links to the list of required rocks and minerals and the ["Rules" for the competition](#), [a file describing mineral properties](#), and [a link to a helpful webpage that the Science Olympiad](#) has generated on Rocks and Minerals. This should help you get started.
- 2) Each week I will introduce 10-20 of the minerals with pictures and pertinent information and eventually some practice questions set similarly to the stations you will see at the event on March 12th. I'll send an e-mail to the group each time I post new material.
- 3) I am not opposed to attempting to Zoom meetings, but you all have more familiarity with those than I do and I would hope one of you might be more experienced in setting them up. I am available most afternoons after your school day and some early evenings. Weekends are sometimes OK also.

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FYI, I am a retired geologist. With a Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Michigan and after a career as a petroleum geologist/petrophysicist, I retired in 2011, and my wife and I moved to Pittsford (off East Ave just north of Nazareth College) in the summer of 2012. One of my lifetime hobbies is mineral/fossil/rock/sand collecting and continuing to learn geology. The chance to help you prepare for the Science Olympiad fits in perfectly with my interest and I truly look forward to sharing my hobby and knowledge with each of you in the coming months. I just wish it was possible to do this directly with the rocks and minerals sitting in front of us! Perhaps we can do this in the new year.

If you are interested, the webpage where I am placing rocks and minerals information also has articles I've written now and then on my activities in geology. Here is a link to the main page. <http://fredmhaynes.com/>. I am months behind a bit on my entries, but you can learn a bit more about me there.

I look forward to working with each of you.

Fred Haynes
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