**Problem of the Week #2**

This Problem of the Week gives you a chance to work on your mathematical writing. Be sure to follow the directions and explain your thinking fully. Refer to the rubric.

**Maria’s First Day of School**

**Problem #1**: When Maria’s alarm went off on the first day of her senior year at Wilkes Central High School, she hit the snooze button and slept for another 10 minutes. When the alarm sounded the next time, Maria got up and immediately brushed and flossed her teeth, which took 5 minutes. A half hour later, Maria was showered and dressed. She then spent 45 minutes getting her hair and make-up just right. Next, Maria had a glass of milk and a bowl of microwave oatmeal for breakfast. Maria spent 30 minutes preparing and eating her breakfast. Twenty-four minutes later, at 8:39 a.m., Maria arrived at school ready to begin the new school year. At what time did Maria’s alarm go off the first time?

**Problem #2**: There are two different routes that Maria can take to get to school. The first route, which is 12 miles gets her to school in 20 minutes. The second route is only 8 miles, but has more traffic lights, so it takes 24 minutes. Based on this information, in miles per hour, what is the absolute difference in Maria’s average speeds for both routes?

**Problem #3**: At Wilkes Central High School, there is a total of 175 parking spaces for students. Three-fifths of these spaces are reserved for juniors and seniors who drive to school. There are twice as many parking spaces assigned to seniors as there are assigned to juniors. How many of the parking spaces at Wilkes Central High School are not assigned to seniors?

1. ***Problem Statement*:** State the problem(s) clearly in your own words. Your problem statements should be clear enough that someone unfamiliar with the problem could understand what it is that you are being asked to do.
2. ***Process:***Describe what you did in attempting to solve this problem. Write about such things as
   1. How you got started
   2. Where you got stuck, and how you got unstuck
   3. How you knew when to stop
   4. Efforts that didn’t work out or that seemed like a waste of time
   5. If you get assistance of any kind on the problem, you should indicate what the assistance was and how it helped you.
3. ***Solution:***State your solution as clearly as you can. Explain how you know that your solution is correct and complete. Your explanation should be written in a way that will be convincing to someone else --- even someone who initially disagrees with your answer.
4. ***Evaluation:***Discuss your personal reaction to the problem. For example, you might respond to the questions below:
   1. Did you consider it educationally worthwhile? What did you learn from it?
   2. How would you change the problem to make it better?
   3. Did you enjoy working on it?
   4. Was it too hard or too easy?