



Orange County Academic Pentathlon

2018-2019 Program Information



WHAT IS THE ACADEMIC PENTATHLON PROGRAM?

Academic Pentathlon is an exciting five-event competition for grades six, seven, and eight. The program is uniquely designed to engage students of all achievement levels in a variety of challenging academic events.

Under the guidance of an adult coach, teams of students prepare for competition in the subject areas of fine arts (art and music), literature (including essay analysis), math, science, and social science.

The theme for the 2018-2019 Academic Pentathlon is the 1960s!

Important Dates

7th/8th Grade Competitions:

March 16, 2019

Westminster High School
Westminster, CA

6th Grade Competition:

May 4, 2019

University High School
Irvine, CA

WHY PARTICIPATE IN THE ACADEMIC PENTATHLON?

The Orange County Academic Pentathlon prepares students for success in college and careers by building 21st century skills in communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and character.

The Academic Pentathlon supports the achievement of the following California Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) priorities:

Pupil Outcomes

Survey results from students who participated in the 2017-18 Academic Pentathlon:

- 94% reported improved **skills in critical thinking**
- 82% reported improved **skills in communication**
- 87% reported improved **skills in team-work**
- 64% reported improved **creativity**
- 77% reported development of **stronger character traits**

Engagement

The program encourages active involvement and collaboration of teachers, administrators, students and parents.

- 88% reported that the program helped them to **build relationships with their peers**
- 76% reported that the program helped them **become more involved at school**

Each grade level also competes in an exciting Super Quiz relay, a team event where parents, faculty, and classmates cheer for their teams from the sidelines, championing academics much like the environment of a sporting event.

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HOW DO SCHOOLS PARTICIPATE?

Supervision

Each participating school must have a faculty representative to serve as a coach. As Academic Pentathlon is a multidisciplinary program, having an assistant coach is very beneficial.

Registration

A school must file an Intent to Participate form by **Friday, November 9, 2018**. Completed registration forms and student transcripts for all team members are due to the Academic Events office by **Wednesday, February 13, 2019** (7th/8th grade) and **Wednesday, March 27, 2019** (6th grade) before 5:00 p.m.

Program Fees

CURRICULUM

- ▶ Each school will order curriculum materials directly from the United States Academic Decathlon
- ▶ The \$275 fee includes a site license to download materials and unlimited copying and distribution of the curriculum at the school site.

TEAM REGISTRATION

- ▶ *Orange County Schools* – \$600 per team
- ▶ *Out of County Schools* – \$700 per team
- ▶ *Alternate students* – \$100 per student

HOW ARE TEAMS FORMED?

A team consists of nine students from the same grade. The nine members include three students from each of the following grade point average (GPA) categories:

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>GPA</u>
Honor	3.75 – 4.00
Scholastic	3.00 – 3.74
Varsity	0.00 – 2.99

Eligible Coursework and GPA Calculation

For each student, grades from the previous school year will be used to determine GPA (2 semesters or 3 trimesters). The only courses to be used to determine GPA are: Language Arts (English and Reading), Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language. Regardless of the system used to determine a GPA locally, these criteria must be followed to ensure uniformity and equity among all participants in the Orange County Academic Pentathlon.

HOW ARE TEAMS RECOGNIZED?

Individual Awards

Students compete against their own grade level and within their respective GPA category. For each GPA category, medals are presented to the top individuals in each subject area as well as the highest scoring individuals overall.

Team Awards

Medals and plaques are presented to the top Super Quiz teams and highest scoring teams overall.

WHO MAY I CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION?

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