



Orange County Department of Education Educational Services Division



Orange County Academic Pentathlon

2021-2022 Fact Sheet

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 2021-2022 Academic Pentathlon is *Water: A Most Essential Resource*.

Important Dates

(Dates Subject To Change)

7th/8th Grade Competition:

March 9, 12 & 19, 2022

6th Grade Competition:

April 27 & 30, and May 7, 2022

WHY PARTICIPATE IN THE ACADEMIC PENTATHLON?

The Orange County Academic Pentathlon prepares students for success in college, careers, and life.

The Academic Pentathlon program contributes to a Multi-Tiered System of Support and Local Control and Accountability Plan priorities by building academic and social-emotional skills, engaging students, families and community members, and fostering school connectedness.

Students who participate report improvement in the areas of communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and character, and they report feeling a stronger sense of belonging at school.

Student Outcomes

- **93%** of students reported improved **skills in critical thinking**
- **85%** of students reported improved **skills in communication**
- **87%** of students reported improved **skills in team-work**
- **84%** of students reported development of **stronger character traits**
- **85%** of students reported the program helped them to **build relationships with their peers**
- **85%** of students reported the program helped them **feel more connected to their 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 5, 2021**.

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

- ▶ Team fees for the 2021-2022 competition season will be published in fall 2021.

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	3.80 – 4.00
Scholastic	3.20 – 3.79
Varsity	0.00 – 3.19

Eligible Coursework and GPA Calculation

For each student, grades from the previous school year are 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 among all participants in the 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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