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## Orange County Academic Pentathlon



# 2025-2026 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.

**2025-2026 Theme**  
The Roaring Twenties

**2026 Competition Dates**  
(Dates Subject to Change)

**Essay Test – March 25 or 31**  
**Objective Testing – March 28 or April 11**  
**Super Quiz & Awards – April 25 (grades 7-8)**  
**Super Quiz & Awards – May 2 (grade 6)**

### 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. The competition culminates with 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.

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**

Survey results from students who participated in the 2024-2025 Academic Pentathlon:

- **90%** of students reported improved **skills in critical thinking**
- **87%** of students reported the program helped them to **build relationships with their peers**
- **92%** of students reported improved **skills in team-work**
- **91%** of students reported improved **skills in communication**
- **87%** of students reported development of **stronger character traits**
- **80%** of students reported the program helped them **feel more connected to their school**

## 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.

### **Program Fees**

#### **Curriculum**

- ▶ Each school will [order curriculum materials](#) directly from the United States Academic Decathlon.
- ▶ The \$300 fee includes a site license to download materials and unlimited copying and distribution of the curriculum at the school site.

#### **Team Registration**

- ▶ \$650 per team
- ▶ \$100 per alternate student

## HOW ARE TEAMS FORMED?

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

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>GPA</b>
Honor	3.85 – 4.00
Scholastic	3.30 – 3.84
Varsity	0.00 – 3.29

### **Eligible Coursework and GPA Calculation**

For each student, grades from the previous school year are used to determine GPA (2 semesters, 3 trimesters, or 4 quarters). The Orange County Department of Education utilizes the United States Academic Pentathlon criteria to determine student GPAs in order to ensure uniformity among all participants. More information on GPA calculation will be provided to participating coaches.

## HOW ARE STUDENTS RECOGNIZED?

### **Individual Awards**

Students compete only against students in 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.

## WHOM MAY I CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION?

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