



Academic

Promoting a competitive edge for college and career

Decathlon

NEWSLETTER

Providing you with the latest information trending at OCAD.

OCAD Mission Statement

To inspire academic excellence and build 21st century skills that prepare students for college and careers.

Alumni Words of Wisdom

"Participating in Academic Decathlon was such a rewarding experience. I really learned a lot about time management, perseverance, dedication, and teamwork. Participating in OCAD was the single most impactful experience of my high school career in which I was able to grow as student and as a person."

Sana Datar, Chapman University, Woodbridge HS class of 2015

For more information about the Orange County Academic Decathlon, please visit: www.ocde.us/decathlon

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Canyon takes top honors as four schools head to CAD



Four high schools have been selected to represent Orange County as they advance to next month's state decathlon competition in Sacramento.

A buzz of excitement filled Santa Ana High School's Bill Medley Auditorium the night of February 16 as a new leader of the pack, Canyon High School, was named the Overall Team Winner with 50,675.5 points. Along with a trophy, special plaque, and a slew of individual medals and

local bragging rights, the school received a \$3,000 travel stipend from the Orange County Academic Decathlon Association, which joined OCDE in announcing this year's winners.

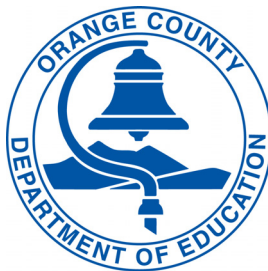
Led by former decathlete and Westminster High alumni, Khoa Dao, Canyon High has emerged to the top of the Academic Decathlon stage here in Orange County after about a ten year absence and just two years back in the program. But as we said, it won't be the only Orange County school advancing to the next round.

Valencia High in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, Woodbridge High in the Irvine Unified School District, and Westminster High in the Huntington Beach Union High School District also earned their opportunity to make an impact at the California Academic Decathlon.

The California Academic Decathlon competition will take place March 17-20 in Sacramento. Good luck to all our teams representing Orange County!

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Overall Results—Orange County Academic Decathlon Competition

DIVISION 1

- 1st Place: *Canyon High School, Orange Unified School District*
 2nd Place: *Valencia High School, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District*
 3rd Place: *Woodbridge High School, Irvine Unified School District*
 4th Place: *Westminster High School, Huntington Beach Union High School District*
 5th Place: *Trabuco Hills High School, Saddleback Valley Unified School District*

DIVISION 2

- 1st Place: *Fountain Valley High School, Huntington Beach Union High School District*
 2nd Place: *Esperanza High School, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District*
 3rd Place: *Corona del Mar High School, Newport-Mesa Unified School District*
 4th Place: *Sonora High School, Fullerton Joint Union High School District*
 5th Place: *El Dorado High School Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District*

DIVISION 3

- 1st Place: *Cornelia Connelly School, Private School, Anaheim*
 2nd Place: *Foothill High School, Tustin Unified School District*
 3rd Place: *Yorba Linda High School, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District*
 4th Place: *Santiago High School, Garden Grove Unified School District*
 5th Place: *Saddleback High School, Santa Ana Unified School District*



Peterson Scholarship Recipient: Alexander Ballard



Alexander Ballard
2016 Peterson Scholarship Recipient

Alexander Ballard, a three-year participant on the Trabuco Hills High School Academic Decathlon team, is the embodiment of a selfless and inspiring decathlete. He has taken an active role as team leader in the last two years, exemplifying the qualities of scholarship, leadership, integrity, and academic excellence. He has modeled a devotion to the program and respect toward his teammates, which was instrumental in leading Trabuco Hills back to being one of Orange County's top teams and to receiving a qualifying bid to the state competition last year. Individually, Alexander has gone from Trabuco Hills' highest scoring Scholastic competitor last year to Orange County's highest scoring Scholastic competitor this year – an achievement earned through his personal work ethic, dedication to his team, and commitment to learning.

Throughout his three years of Academic Decathlon, Alexander has demonstrated continuous growth in all ten subject matters. He has received a total of 18 individual medals, including six out of ten first place medals in this year's competition. He has also made a great impact to the next generation of Trabuco Hills decathletes by mentoring the Junior Varsity (JV) team to a first place win in Super Quiz and second place overall in last year's JV competition.

Reflecting upon his high school career, Alexander stated, "I honestly believe that Academic Decathlon is the single most important activity I have done." The weight in this statement can be felt by the fact that he is president of both the French Honor Society and UNICEF club; a member of the California Scholarship Federation, National Honor Society, and French Club; a French tutor and the only student at Trabuco Hills taking French 5 AP; and he also participates in the International Baccalaureate Program. Alexander believes Academic Decathlon has shaped his academic, leadership and communication abilities – and most importantly, he believes the program has shaped his potential career pathway. He truly enjoys sharing knowledge with others and he is interested in pursuing teaching as a career.

*The OCAD Peterson Scholarship Award is presented annually to an overall outstanding decathlete who has demonstrated exceptional diligence and persistence as well as great concern for others – named for the founder of Academic Decathlon, Dr. Robert Peterson, former Orange County Superintendent of Schools. Honorees selected for this award exemplify what OCAD is all about.

Hooper Scholarship Recipient: Angelina Zamora

Angelina Zamora, a two-year participant for the Santiago High School Academic Decathlon team, is a true example of a decathlete who exhibits an enthusiasm for her teammates and the program. She is hard-working, determined, and is constantly improving herself as student. This is most evident in her movement from the Scholastic category last year to the Honor category this year. Angelina does so much for her team – she motivates her teammates, creates lessons and quizzes, and brings Krispy Kreme donuts and pizza to study sessions and competitions. Her coach reflects about how special Angelina has been: “I am losing a student who not only made my coaching job easier, but who made my coaching job more worthwhile – her work ethic is like no other student I’ve seen in ten years of teaching.” In the excerpt below Angelina expresses what Academic Decathlon has meant to her:

“For years, I have competed in both Academic Pentathlon and Decathlon – circling my life around these competitions – so Academic Decathlon is important to me because it has helped me define who I am today. Participating in the program has also helped me to better my skills as a student and as a person. I have learned to properly speak in public and have learned to conduct myself professionally in interviews. These skills have prepared me for so many things, such as school projects and presentations, and even more so during college interviews. Academic Decathlon has also helped me to advance my overall knowledge. The facts and material within the curriculum and study lessons are not just for the competition but have prepared me for my Advanced Placement classes. All of the subjects have correlated with what I have been taught in the classroom, which has helped me to master these subjects. Being a major part of my life, Academic Decathlon has meant a lot, especially because of the friends I have made over the course of the years. I honestly could not imagine my life without Academic Decathlon.”

With gratitude, kindness, enthusiasm, and dedication to improvement, Angelina has gained the confidence to see her potential to succeed and to achieve her personal goals.

*The OCAD Hooper Scholarship Award is presented annually to a decathlete who has shown improvement in several areas of the competition, and has demonstrated unusual diligence and persistence in and out of the Academic Decathlon program. The award is named in honor of former Trabuco Hills High School Coach, Janet Hooper, in recognition of her many years of dedicated service to her teams and to OCAD.



Angelina Zamora, 2016 Hooper Scholarship Recipient

Volunteers Needed at the State and National Competition

Are you or do you know somebody who may be interested in volunteering at the State and National competitions? The California Academic Decathlon (CAD) and the United States Academic Decathlon (USAD) are looking for community volunteers to serve as proctors and judges for their competition events. Please see information below to register as a volunteer.

Upcoming CAD Volunteer Dates

Interview, Speech Judge, Test Proctor, or

Super Quiz Proctor

March 18-19, 2016— Sacramento, CA

Register to volunteer at:

<http://www.academicdecathlon.org/volunteer/Default.htm>



