

Basha AMS Academic Pentathlon



Year 2024-2025



A little about Coach Joann Wuthrich:

- Born in Brooklyn & raised in NY, lived in Chandler, AZ 28 years
- Lived on 3 continents (North America, Europe and Asia, spent time in Australia)
- Speak 4 languages (English, fluent German, Fundamental Spanish, Fundamental Mandarin)
- B.A. German, Graduate work in Language Acquisition
- Part of Basha Community since 2004, CUSD Community since 1996
- 12th year working with BHS AcDec
- 8th year as head coach of AcDec at Basha High
- 6th year coaching AMS AcPen
- Coached MS Knowledge Bowl team to 1st Place ACAMIS Championship for DAIS China, 2012
- Coached AMS AcPen team to 4 years in a row of multiple Region Champions, State Champions, National Champions.
 - **2024 National Champions in 6th , 7th , and 8th Grade Divisions!!!**



I enjoy traveling with my husband and 5 children, who are all grown now.
I raise goats, turkeys and chickens on my hobby farm here in Chandler.
I have 6 grandchildren!



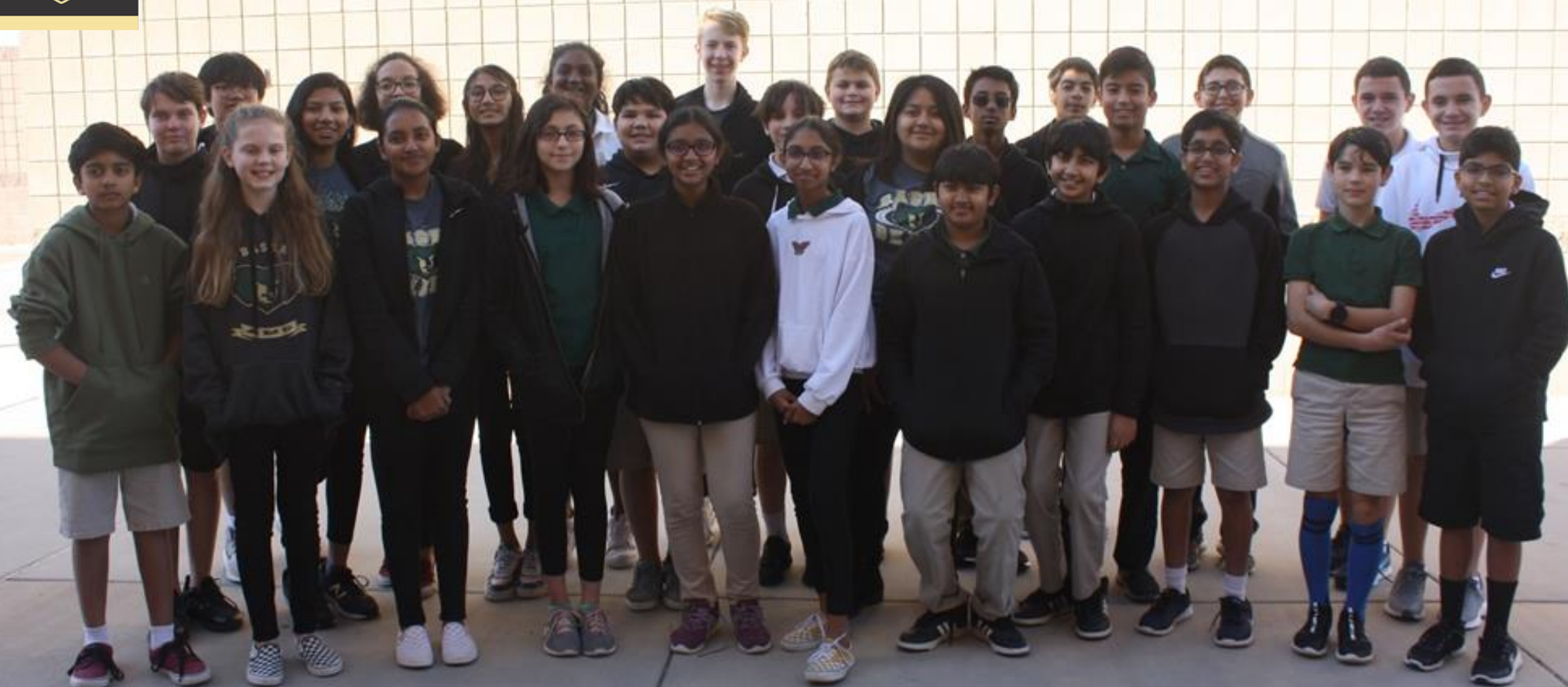
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Mrs. Joann Wuthrich –
wuthrich.joann@cUSD80.com

← These are my boys, who introduced me to AcDec!



AMS ACADEMIC PENTATHLON 2019-2020



28 students participated in 2019-2020

Year 1: Region Champions, Slated to be State Champions before pandemic stopped the season.



AMS ACADEMIC PENTATHLON 2020-2021

Year 2:

7th Grade Region Champions

8th Grade Region 3rd Place

7th & 8th Grade State Champions

8th Grade National Champions

7th Grade National 3rd Place Finish

39 students participated in 2020 - 2021





AMS ACADEMIC PENTATHLON 2021-2022

Year 3:
7th & 8th Grade Region Champions
7th & 8th Grade State Champions
8th Grade National Champions
7th Grade National highest scoring
team – 1st in Virtual Competition



48 students participated in 2021 - 2022



AMS ACADEMIC PENTATHLON 2022-2023

81 students participated in 2022- 2023



Year 4:

6th Grade Region, State Champions, 2nd place in Nationals 7th grade Runner up division.

7th Grade State Champions & 7th grade 3rd Place Team.

7th National Champions!

8th Grade State Runner Up, 8th Grade top scoring team in Nationals, Runner Up Division 1st place at Nationals.

Region, State & National Super Quiz Champions!

35 students went to Nationals





AMS ACADEMIC PENTATHLON 2023-2024

108 students participated in 2023- 2024



Year 5:

6th Grade Region Champions, State Champions & National Champions!

7th Grade Region Champions, State Champions & National Champions!

8th Grade Region Champions, State Champions & National Champions!

44 students went to Nationals

Region Super Quiz Champions!

State Super Quiz Champions!

7th Grade Nationals Super Quiz Champions!



Scope:

An overall curricular theme is given each year that integrates the 5 different academic disciplines in a connected and interdisciplinary manner.

- ▶ 2014-2015: New Alternatives in Energy
- ▶ 2015-2016: India
- ▶ 2016-2017: World War II
- ▶ 2017-2018: Africa
- ▶ 2018-2019: The 1960's, Transformational Decade
- ▶ 2019-2020: Health and Wellness
- ▶ 2020-2021: The Cold War
- ▶ 2021-2022: Water – A Most Essential Resource
- ▶ 2022-2023: The American Revolution and a New Nation
- ▶ 2023-2024: Technology and Humanity
- ▶ 2024-2025: Our Changing Climate

Science
Math
Social Science
Literature
Fine Arts



2024-2025 Curricular Theme: Our Changing Climate

- **SCIENCE:** The science topic will be Climate Science – Ecology, Environmental Science, Biology, Meteorology.
- **LITERATURE:** Critical reading, one book, and selected shorter works. The long work of literature will be Melt by Elie Fountaine.



- ***Fine Arts = Art and Music combined in one test.**
 - ART:** The art curriculum will offer an introduction to environmental and environmentalist art.
 - MUSIC:** The music curriculum will focus on the topic of music and the natural world.
- **MATHEMATICS:** The mathematics curriculum will cover an overview of **Permutations, Combinations and Probability as well as Algebra and Statistics.**
- **SCIENCE:** The science topic will be an introduction to environmental science.
 - **Environmental Science, Biodiversity, Human Impact on Natural Resources**
- **SOCIAL SCIENCE:** The social science topic will be climate change in the past and present.



AcPen Club – open to all AMS 6th, 7th & 8th graders

AMS AcPen Club will begin meeting after school starting in August.

Club involves:

- Studying online Resource Guides (available August) and supplemental materials.
- Practice tests
- Test strategies

Fun!

Meetings:

Quarter 1: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Quarter 2: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

Quarter 3: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

Quarter 4: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

Maybe Mondays for those available right before the trip to San Antonio. Let's go bears!



Come as often as you can. Stay and study. Have fun but use time wisely!

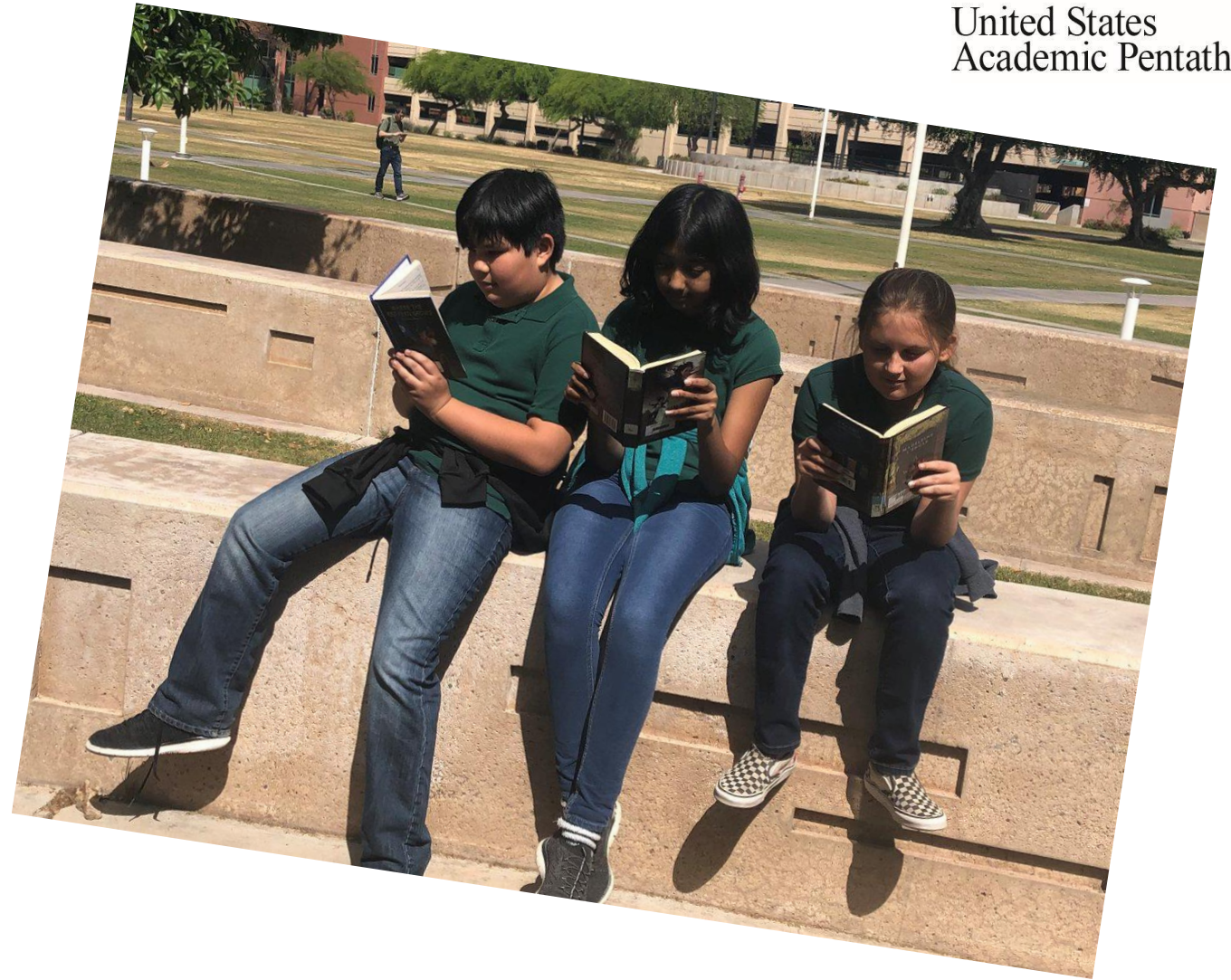
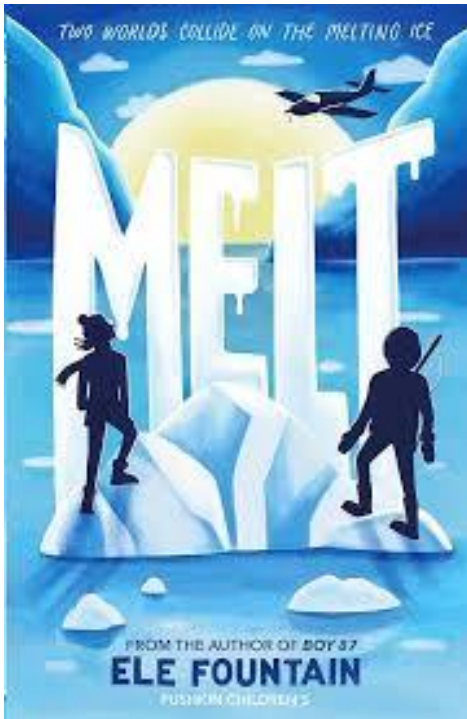
Q: How do you eat an elephant? A: One bite at a time!

- Purchase and Read

Melt

by Ele Fountain **ASAP.**

- ISBN-10: 1782692886



Save the dates:

COMPETITION DATES

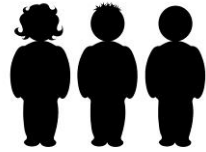


- ****The following dates are tentative and subject to change.***
 - **Scrimmage** – *Subject Area Exams Only - **January 15, 2025**
 - **Essay for Regional Competition - January 23, 2025**
Regional Competition - February 13, 2025
Regional Super Quiz & Awards Ceremony (February 18th, @ Casteel)
 - **Essay for State Competition - March 6, 2025**
State Competition - March 27, 2025
State Super Quiz & Awards Ceremony TBA (April 2nd, @ Basha)
 - **National Competition Registration Due – April 10, 2025**
Essay for National Competition - April 24, 2025
National Competition in San Antonio, TX - May 15-17, 2025
- **For Nationals in San Antonio - Thursday is team building and twin team activities (and evening study session), Friday is testing and super quiz, and Saturday is Awards Ceremony.**
 - **Online students will compete at Basha High School on the Friday of Nationals.**

FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES TO ATTEND: *Following each of these competitions, there will be an in-person Super Quiz and Awards Ceremony for parents, families, and friends to attend. Please plan to join us for these. Your students' participation is considered mandatory as they are part of a team.*



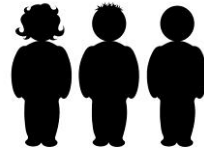
Full AcPen Team = Varsity



Varsity

▶ 3.19↓

Scholastic



Scholastic

▶ 3.2-3.79 GPA

Honor



Honor

▶ 3.8-4.0 GPA

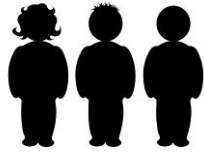


Only the four core subjects and world language grades from the students' previous year's transcript are used to calculate GPA weights; not specials such as CTE, PE or Music.

- **8th Grade Team: 3 Honors Students, 3 Scholastic Students, 3 Varsity Students**
- **7th Grade Team: 3 Honors Students, 3 Scholastic Students, 3 Varsity Students**
- **6th Grade Team: 3 Honors Students, 3 Scholastic Students, 3 Varsity Students**
- Students compete on the “A team, B, C, or D teams” or as individuals.
- We are looking for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students to fill spots on multiple teams.
- All students can earn medals if they achieve the 3 highest scores, regardless of team/IND status.
- All students who choose to compete must compete in all 5 academic subjects.
 - You can not pick and choose. Some are specialists and medal in one or two subjects (math & science)
 - Some are true pentathletes and will medal in 3-5 subjects – an Overall Champion is also awarded a medal.
 - This is a good experience for the individual and prepares them for future team participation.



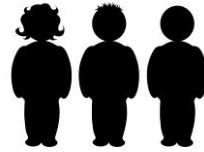
Full AcPen Team = Varsity



Varsity

▶ 3.19↓

Scholastic



Scholastic

▶ 3.2-3.79 GPA

Honor



Honor

▶ 3.8-4.0 GPA



Only the four core subjects and world language grades from the students' previous year's transcript are used to calculate GPA weights; not specials such as CTE, PE or Music.

A full team consists of 3 honor, 3 scholastic and 3 varsity students.

A team can only win with at least 2 teammates in all three weight divisions.

- provides an opportunity for students who are academically interested regardless of GPA
- shows the students at a young age that grades are not necessarily an indicator of intelligence and that they should strive to work with students at all levels
- Students also experience that often the person with the highest GPA is not necessarily the smartest person in the room. I have been pleasantly surprised at how some of our "C" students have scored higher than many of the "A" students.
- develops a tolerance for different talents in peers and a greater ability for collaboration



Team Composition:






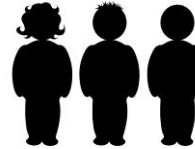

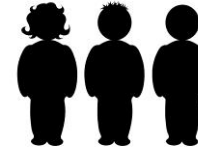
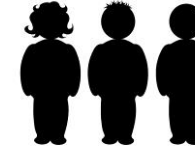




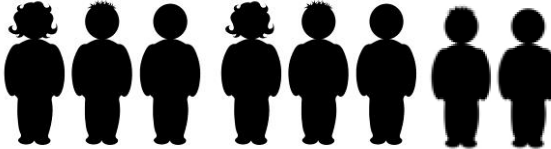
- 6th graders can participate as 7th or 8th graders
- 7th graders can participate as 7th or 8th graders
- 8th graders participate on an 8th grade team or as 8th grade individuals.



- We can field one official 6th, one official 7th and one official 8th grade team. (“A” Teams)
- Students who are not on the official “A” team can be placed on “B, C, or D” teams.
- Even if a student is not on the A or B team, they can win individual medals.
 - All students who choose to compete, must compete in all 5 academic subjects.
 - Most schools struggle to create one team. We have many teams, making us that much more competitive!
 - In 2024 we sent 44 students to nationals. 3 teams and 27 individuals. Never give up!



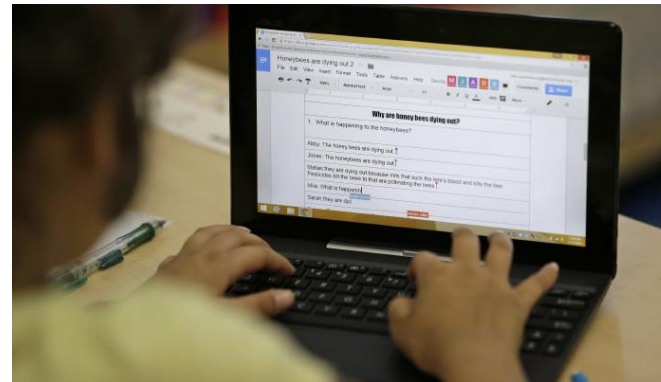
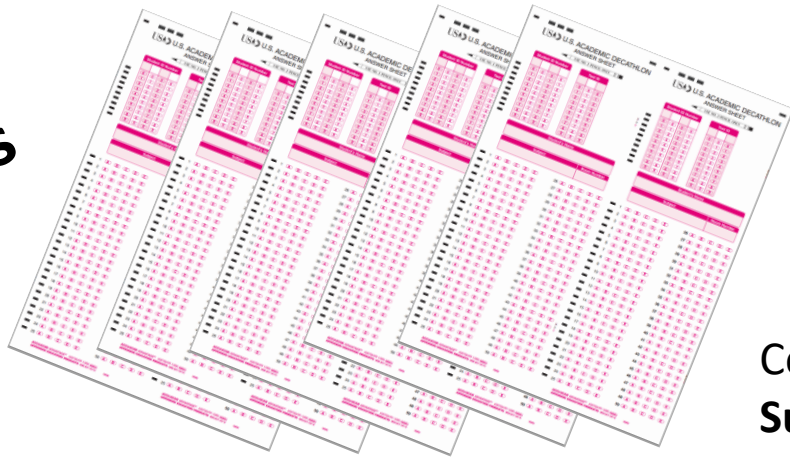
2020-2021 AMS AcPen
Team Distribution:

8 th Grade “A Team”	Full AcPen Team = Varsity		Scholastic		Honor		State Champions
7 th Grade “A Team”	Full AcPen Team = Varsity		Scholastic		Honor		State Champions
8 th Grade “B Team”	Full AcPen Team = Varsity		Scholastic		Honor		State 3 rd Place
7 th Grade “B Team”	Full AcPen Team = Varsity		Scholastic		Honor		State 2 nd Place
7 th & 8 th Grade Individuals – can still earn medals	Individuals =	Scholastic		Honor		3 State Medalists	

Format for Competitions:



- 5 multiple choice tests + 1 essay (typed – no spell or grammar check)
- Each test worth 1000 points = **5000 point total possible score/student**
 - Top 2/3 from each academic GPA category from each team counts toward team score=
30,000 possible points/Team



1 essay

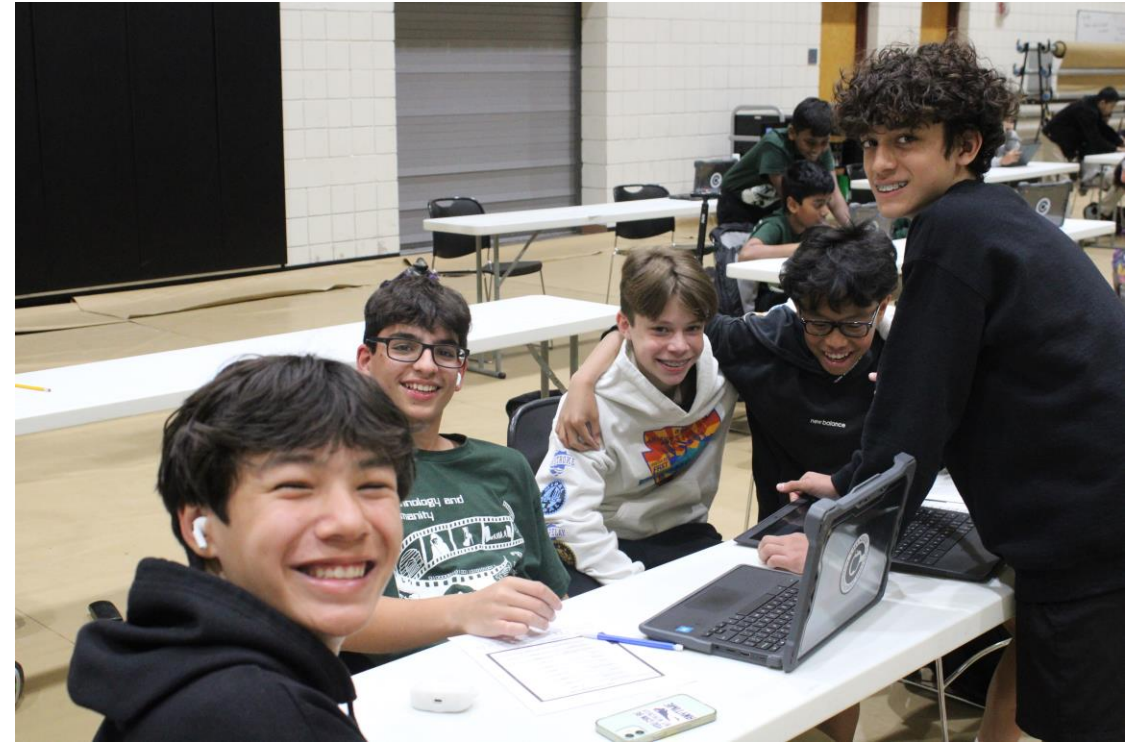
Competition Format:

Subject	Description
Fine Arts	50 question multiple-choice test (30 minutes)
Literature	30 question multiple-choice test (20 minutes) Essay – 40 Minutes
Mathematics	35 question multiple-choice test (30 minutes)
Science	50 question multiple-choice test (30 minutes)
Social Science	50 question multiple-choice test (30 minutes)
	1000 points per test (math, science, fine arts, social science)
	1000 points combined literature test + essay.



Tests & Essays are online.

- USAP made the decision to have all competitions in 2020-2021 be conducted virtually. We still take online tests for scrimmage, region and state.
- Tests and Essays are held on campus (in the gym usually) during school hours.
- USAP is holding Nationals in San Antonio, CA May 15-17, 2025.
- We will have to fundraise to get to Texas for Nationals.
 - Travel + Hotel stay + Competition Fees



Super Quiz and Awards are in person and a spectator event – parents and families invited!



Typical Competition Day schedule:

5 Test Competition Schedule for Block days		
7:25	Gather & Login	p. 2/1
7:45	Start Science Test	30 min test
8:15	Finish Science Test	
	10 Minute Break	
8:25	Start Math Test	30 min test
8:55	Finish Math Test	
	15 Minute Break	
9:10	Start Social Science Test	30 min test conference
9:40	Finish Social Science Test	
9:50- 10:20	30 Minute LUNCH BREAK (Normal lunch)	A Lunch
10:20=10:30	Gather & Log back in to USAD Testing Center	p. 4/3
10:30	Start Fine Arts Test	30 min test
11:00	Finish Fine Arts Test	
	10 Minute Break	
11:10	Start Literature Test	20 min test
11:30	Finish Literature Test	
11:30	Stack chairs and tables into the hallway	p. 4/3
11:45-12:00	Team pictures	
	RETURN TO 3th/4th Period CLASSES	

5 Test Competition Schedule for Nationals - Traditional day		
7:25 - 8:22	Go To ALL of 1st Period	P. 1
8:27	Gather, Last minute study & Login	
9:00	Start Literature Test	P. 2
9:20	Finish Literature Test	
	5 Minute Break	
9:25	Start Science Test	
9:55	Finish Science Test	
	5 Minute Break	P. 3
10:00	Start Social Science Test	
10:30	Finish Social Science Test	
10:30-11:00	30 Minute LUNCH BREAK (Normal lunch)	A Lunch
11:00 - 11:15	Gather & Log back in to used Testing Center	
11:15	Start Fine Arts Test	
11:45	Finish Fine Arts Test	
	10 Minute Break	
11:55	Start Mathematics Test	
12::15 PM	Finish Mathematics Test	
	RETURN TO 5th Period CLASSES	

Essays are written a week or two prior to the tests for the same competition.

Essay	Block Day Schedule	
8:30	Review Session for Essay	
9:45		
9:49 - 10:20	30 Minute LUNCH BREAK (Normal lunch)	A Lunch
10:25 - 10:35	Gather & Log back in to USAD Testing Center	
10:35	Start Essay	
11:20	Finish Essay	P. 4

Essay	Traditional Day Schedule	
9:00	Review Session for Essay	
10:30		
10:30-11:01	30 Minute LUNCH BREAK (Normal lunch)	A Lunch
11:00 - 11:15	Gather & Log back in to USAD Testing Center	
11:15	Start Essay	
12:00	Finish Essay	P. 4

Awards

- **Individual Awards for each subject area: Medals**
 - Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals, 4th & 5th Ribbons
 - Math
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - Literature
 - Fine Arts
 - Overall Winners for highest overall scores
 - 5 test scores and essay combined
- **Team Awards: Trophy**



Format for Competitions:

- MOST Academic Pentathlon® competitions take place online in a virtual testing environment, so there is no travel required for teams.
- The National Academic Pentathlon® competition is held in a physical location (pending circumstances).



Academic Pentathlon Costs

- Club fee - \$45
 - Competition Fees + Tshirt

Our costs exceed our club fees, please donate using:

- Tax Credit

<https://www.cusd80.com/TaxCredit>

- Matching Grant Programs
 - Many employers offer matching grant programs that can provide your students' school clubs and teams with much needed funding.

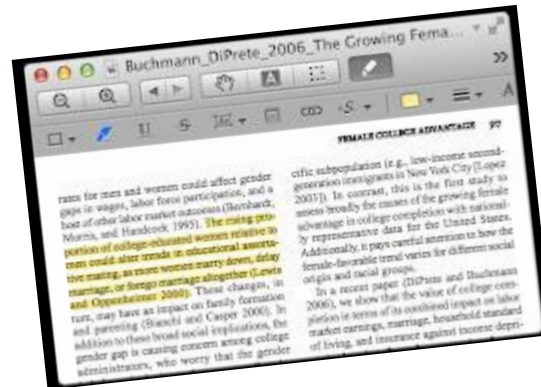


To access 2022-2023 AcPen Resource Guides:

- You will need to be enrolled in the Google Classroom for AMS AcPen.
 - See Mrs. Wuthrich or Mrs. Ekren if you are not in the Google Classroom and wish to be.
- **1. Resource Guides and other materials are in the classwork section.**
- **2. Download and save the files on your personal device.**
- **3. You can also access all materials using the Google Classroom.**
- **DO NOT SHARE any of our resources with anyone outside of AMS or their parents.** We pay for a site license and are only authorized to use them within our own school. Also, we don't want to give away our work that we share amongst our team. That would take away any advantage we have worked for.
- **It is recommended that students print the resource guides, put them in a binder with dividers and highlight important terms, dates and information as they read. This will help them study and review right before competitions.**



Some students prefer digital format. Digital is perfectly acceptable, but please highlight your pdf and save it each time so that you can review right before competitions.



wuthrich.joann@cusd80.com

Please email Mrs. Wuthrich with any questions you may have.

If your student wants to join the club/team-
Email the following to Mrs. Wuthrich:

- Student's name
- ID#
- Grade (6, 7, 8)
- Student school email
- Parent(s) email(s)