



# Basha AMS Academic Pentathlon



Year 2023-2024



## A little about Coach Joann Wuthrich:

- Born in Brooklyn & raised in NY, lived in Chandler, AZ 25years
- Lived on 3 continents (North America, Europe and Asia, spent time in Australia)
- Speak 4 languages (English, German, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese)
- B.A. German, Graduate work in Language Acquisition
- Part of Basha Community since 2004
- 10<sup>th</sup> year working with BHS AcDec
- 6<sup>th</sup> year coaching AcDec at Basha High – 3<sup>rd</sup> in State 2020-2021, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Region 2021
- 4<sup>th</sup> year coaching AMS AcPen
- Coached MS Knowledge Bowl team to 1st Place ACAMIS Championship for DAIS China, 2012
- Coached AMS AcPen team to Regional Champions and pending, ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in Nation, 2020, season was cancelled (CoVid-19)
- Coached AMS AcPen team to 2 years in a row being Regional Champions and State Champions, National Champions, 2021 & 2022



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 3.5 grandchildren!



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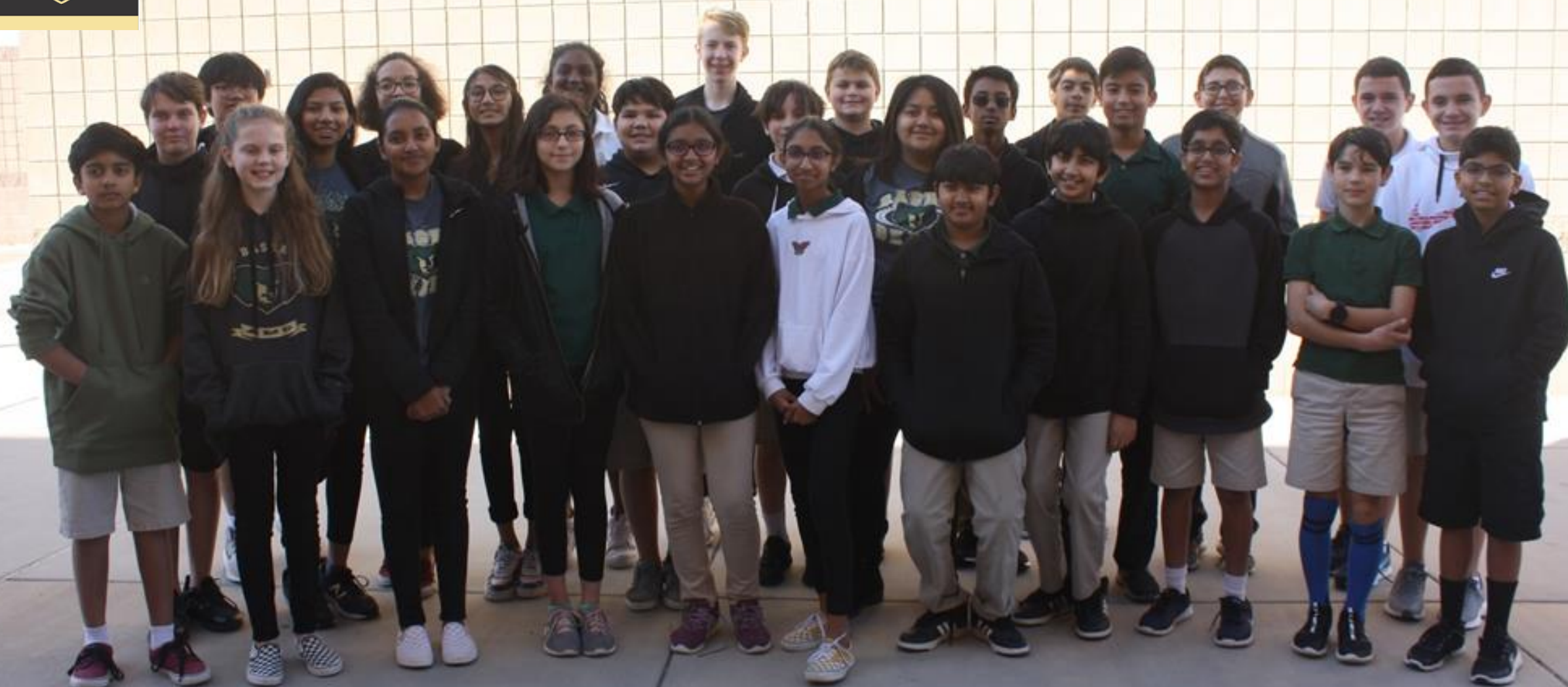
**Mrs. Joann Wuthrich –**  
[wuthrich.joann@cusd80.com](mailto:wuthrich.joann@cusd80.com)

← 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:

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Region Champions

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Region 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade State Champions

8<sup>th</sup> Grade National Champions

7<sup>th</sup> Grade National 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Finish

39 students participated in 2020 - 2021







# AMS ACADEMIC PENTATHLON 2021-2022

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



**48 students participated in 2021 - 2022**





# AMS ACADEMIC PENTATHLON 2022-2023

84 students participated in 2022 - 2023

## Year 4



6th Grade Region & State Champions  
2nd as a 7th grade team at  
Nationals/Top scoring 6th Grade team



7th Grade Region, State Champions  
7th grade National Champions



8th Grade Region 3rd, State Runner Up  
Nationals 1st Place 8th Grade  
National 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.

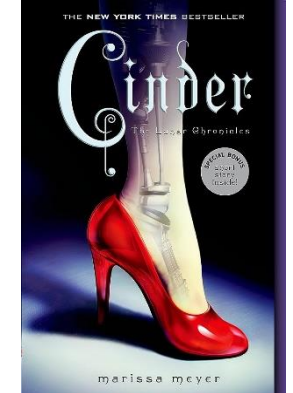
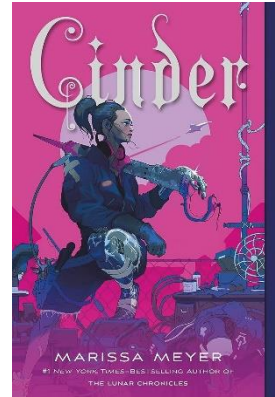
- ▶ 2014-2015: New Alternatives in Energy
- ▶ 2015-2016: India
- ▶ 2016-2017: World War II
- ▶ 2017-2018: Africa
- ▶ 2018-2019: The 1960's, Transformational Decade
- ▶ 2019-2020: Health and Wellness
- ▶ 2020-2021: The Cold War
- ▶ 2021-2022: Water – A Most Essential Resource
- ▶ 2022-2023: The American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

Science  
Math  
Social Science  
Literature  
Fine Arts



- ▶ **2023-2024: Technology and Humanity**

# 2022-2023 Curricular Theme: The American Revolution and the New Nation



**SCIENCE:** The science topic will be an introduction to **Neurology**.

**LITERATURE:** Critical reading, one book, and selected shorter works. The long work of literature will be Cinder by **Marissa Meyer**, ISBN-10: 1250768888.

## FINE ART

**ART:** The art curriculum will explore **art related to technological advancement**.

**MUSIC:** The music curriculum will present **science fiction film scores**.

**SOCIAL SCIENCE:** The social science topic will be the **history of computers**.

**MATHEMATICS:** The mathematics curriculum will cover **general mathematics, geometry, and an introduction to differential calculus**.





**USAAP**  
United States  
Academic Pentathlon

## AcPen Club – open to all AMS 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders

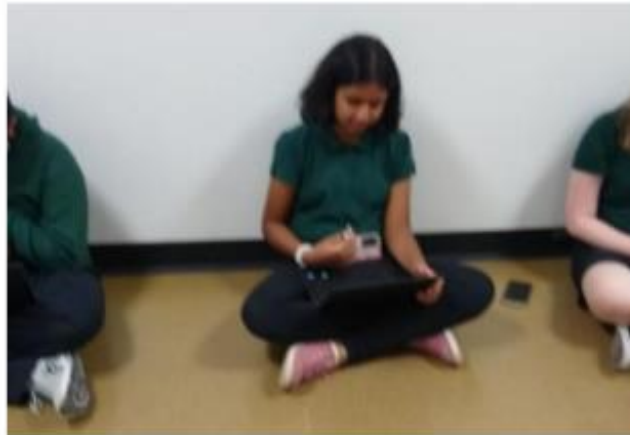
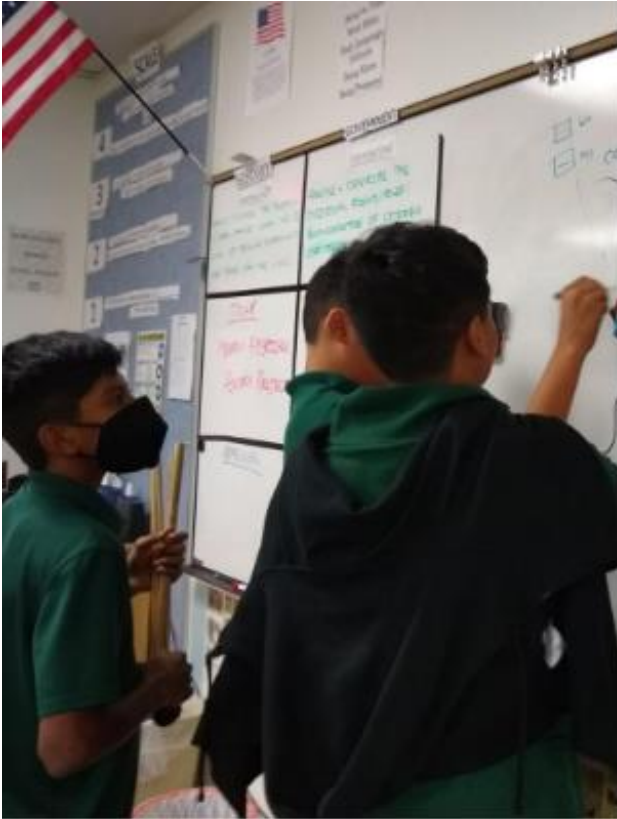
AMS AcPen Club will begin meeting after school starting in August.

Club involves:  
Studying online Resource Guides and supplemental materials.  
Practice tests  
Learning test strategies  
Fun!

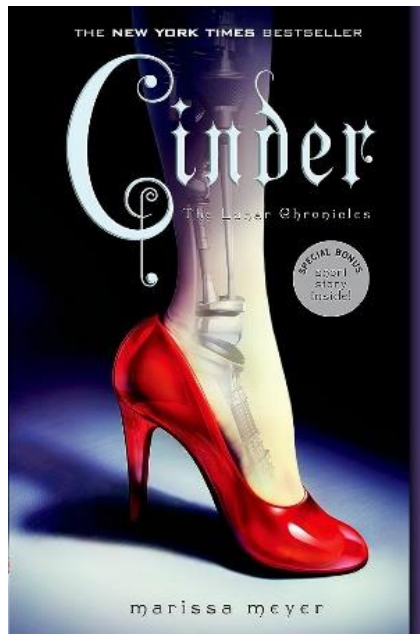
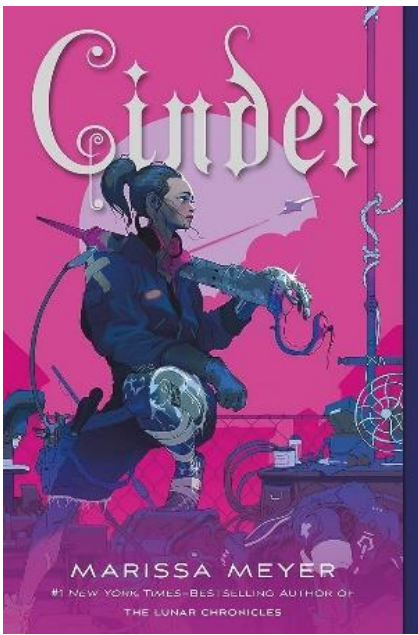
Meets twice Weekly to start. Increases over time.

**Days/Times – AMS focus on Tuesdays & Thursdays, Mrs. Wuthrich is there everyday, come any day.**

Individual Groups study on other days, led by student group leaders.







Purchase and read:

- Cinder by Marissa Meyer
  - ISBN-10: 1250768888

Read this book more than once/often.

Audiobook is acceptable.

Audio chapters to Cinder are available on YouTube.





# Save the dates:



- **Club meetings Days Tuesdays & Thursdays – 2:15 to 4:30 (you can leave earlier if you need to). We will begin with two days a week and add days culminating in every day to prepare to be state and national champions. I will be there every day starting in January. Students should come as often as possible, but maintain other activities and have lives, interests, and hobbies other than AcPen.**

## COMPETITION DATES

**Important Competition Dates (There are no makeup dates - students must be available on these dates)**

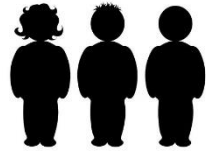
- Scrimmage – Subject Area Exams Only .....January 11, 2024 (Thursday)
- Essay for Regional Competition.....January 25, 2024 (Thursday)
- Regional Competition ..... February 15, 2024 (Thursday)
- Essay for State Competition ..... March 7, 2024 (Thursday)
- State Competition .....March 28, 2024 (Thursday)
- Essay for National Competition.....April 18, 2024 (Thursday)
- National Competition, Garden Grove, CA, Online and Individual.....May 16-18, 2024 (Thursday to Saturday)

- We can expect to travel to Phoenix, AZ May 16- 18, 2024 to attempt another National Championship!

Students attending nationals compete in the individual invited, runner up, and champions brackets will be staying at the hotel where the competition is being held.



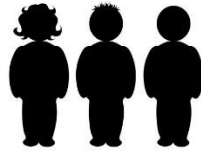
Full AcPen Team = Varsity



**Varsity**

▶ 3.19↓

Scholastic



**Scholastic**

▶ 3.2-3.79 GPA

Honor



**Honor**

▶ 3.8-4.0 GPA



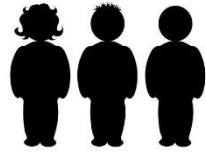
Only the four core subjects and world language grades from the students' previous year's transcript are used to calculate GPA weights; not specials such as CTE, PE or Music.

- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Team: 3 Honors Students, 3 Scholastic Students, 3 Varsity Students**
- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Team: 3 Honors Students, 3 Scholastic Students, 3 Varsity Students**
- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team: 3 Honors Students, 3 Scholastic Students, 3 Varsity Students**
- Students compete on the "A team", the "B & C teams" or as individuals.
- We are looking for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> 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.





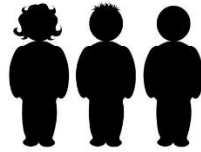
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Honor



**Honor**

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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:

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




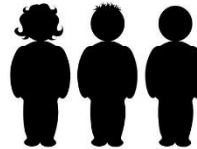
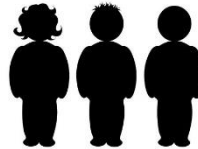
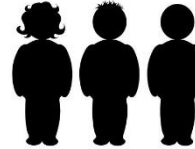

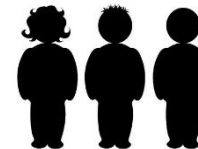
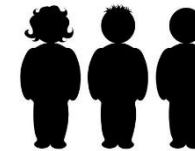


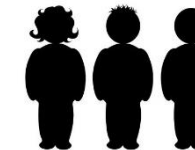

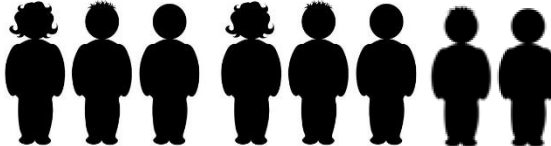


- We can field one official 7<sup>th</sup> grade and one official 8<sup>th</sup> grade team. (“A” Team)
- Students who are not on the official “A” team can be placed on “B” teams.
- Even if a student is not on the A or B team, they can win individual medals.
  - All students who choose to compete, must compete in all 5 academic subjects.
  - Most schools struggle to create one team. We have many teams, making us that much more competitive!
    - In 2021 we sent 4 teams and 9 individuals to Nationals.
    - In 2022 we sent 6 teams to Nationals! In 2023 we sent 9 teams to nationals.





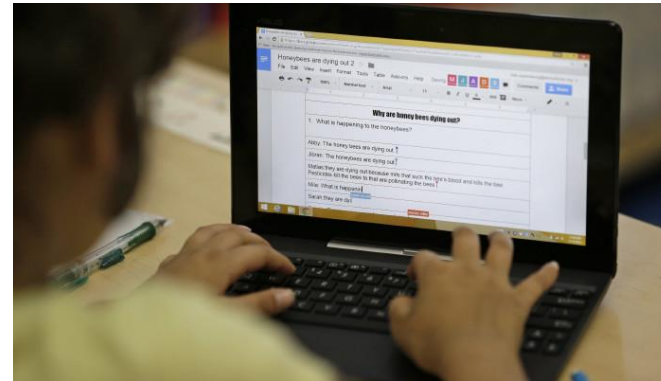
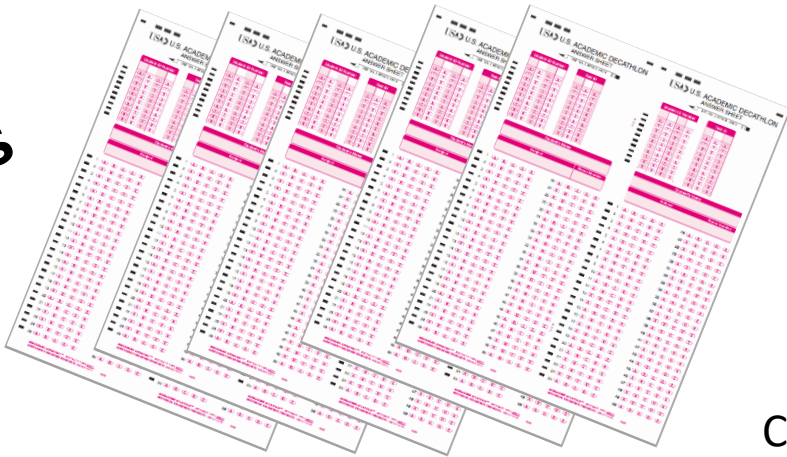
2020-2021 AMS AcPen  
Team Distribution:

8 <sup>th</sup> Grade “A Team”	Full AcPen Team = Varsity		Scholastic		Honor		State Champions
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade “A Team”	Full AcPen Team = Varsity		Scholastic		Honor		State Champions
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade “B Team”	Full AcPen Team = Varsity		Scholastic		Honor		State 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade “B Team”	Full AcPen Team = Varsity		Scholastic		Honor		State 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> 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

5 tests



1 essay

## Competition Format:

### Subject

### Description

Fine Arts

50 question multiple-choice test (30 minutes)

Literature

35 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)





# Competitions are online.

- USAP made the decision to have all competitions in 2020-2021 be conducted virtually. Most have been virtual since.
- Students can take exams at their school using their Chromebook or personal laptops.
- USAP is holding Nationals in Phoenix, AZ May 16-21, 2024.
- We will have to fundraise to compete and attend Nationals.
  - ~~Travel~~ + Hotel stay + Competition Fees



The National competition uses clickers and paper tests much like college classes.



Clickers are provided by USAP.



# Awards

- **Individual Awards for each subject area: Medals**
  - Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals to top 3 in each division per each grade in:
    - Math
    - Science
    - Social Studies
    - Literature
    - Fine Arts
  - Overall Winners for highest overall scores
    - 5 test scores and essay combined
- **Team Awards: Trophies/Nationals Banner**





## Academic Pentathlon Costs



- Club fee - \$45
- Covers competition Fees + T-shirt
- Our costs exceed our club fees, please donate using:
  - Tax Credit <https://www.cusd80.com/TaxCredit>
  - Don't forget to ask relatives living in AZ to use their tax credit to help fund AcPen. Those funds are applied to an AZ tax assessment or refunded, so it's free money for those who utilize it.
- Matching Grant Programs
  - Many employers offer matching grant programs that can provide your students' school clubs and teams with much needed funding.
  - Please check with your employer HR department for matching grants. It only costs you some time.

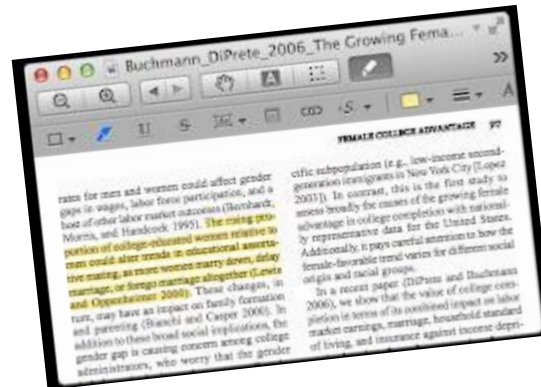
This is the login for Intel Matching Grants.  
<https://intel.benevity.org/user/login>

# 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](mailto:wuthrich.joann@cusd80.com)

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

If your student wants to join the club/team and haven't already done so-

Email the following to Mrs. Wuthrich:

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

