



# Basha AMS Academic Pentathlon



Year 2022-2023



United States  
Academic Pentathlon

## 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!



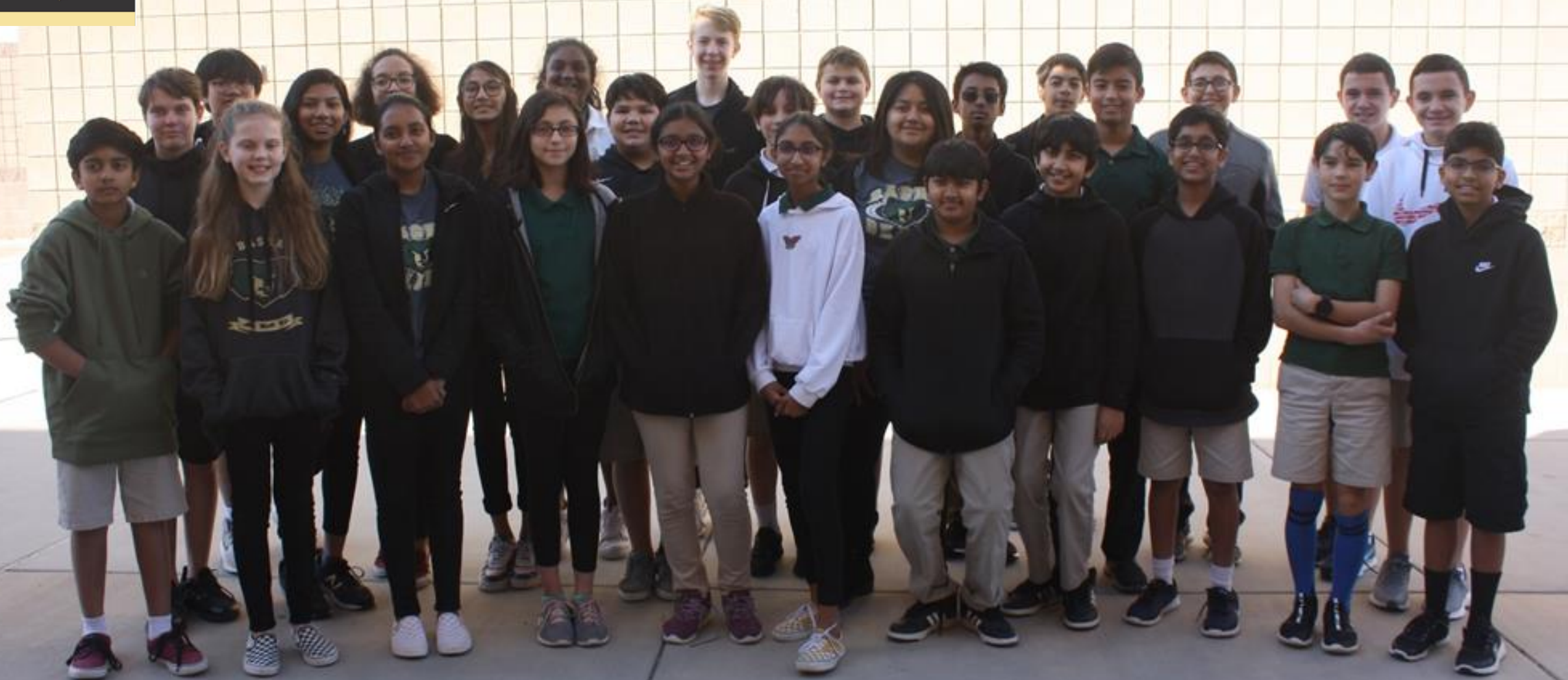
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**Mrs. Joann Wuthrich –**  
[wuthrich.joann@cusd80.com](mailto:wuthrich.joann@cusd80.com)

← 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 & 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

# Scope:

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

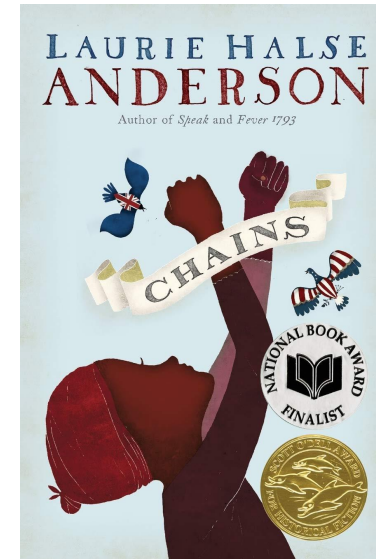
- ▶ 2014-2015: New Alternatives in Energy
- ▶ 2015-2016: India
- ▶ 2016-2017: World War II
- ▶ 2017-2018: Africa
- ▶ 2018-2019: The 1960's, Transformational Decade
- ▶ 2019-2020: Health and Wellness
- ▶ 2020-2021: The Cold War
- ▶ 2021-2022: Water – A Most Essential Resource
- ▶ 2022-2023: The American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

Science  
Math  
Social Science  
Literature  
Fine Arts



- ▶ 2021-2022: Water-A Most Essential Resource

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



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

**LITERATURE:** Critical reading, one book, and selected shorter works. The long work of literature will be Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson.

## Fine Art:

**ART:** The art curriculum will explore early American art.

**MUSIC:** The music curriculum will present an introduction to early American music

**SOCIAL SCIENCE:** The social science topic will be the American Revolution and the founding of the United States of America.

**MATHEMATICS:** The mathematics curriculum will cover geometry, algebra, and trigonometry.



# 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 (available August) and supplemental materials.

Practice tests

Test strategies

Fun!

Meets twice Weekly, (can be virtually &/or in person) to start.

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

Days/Times - TBA



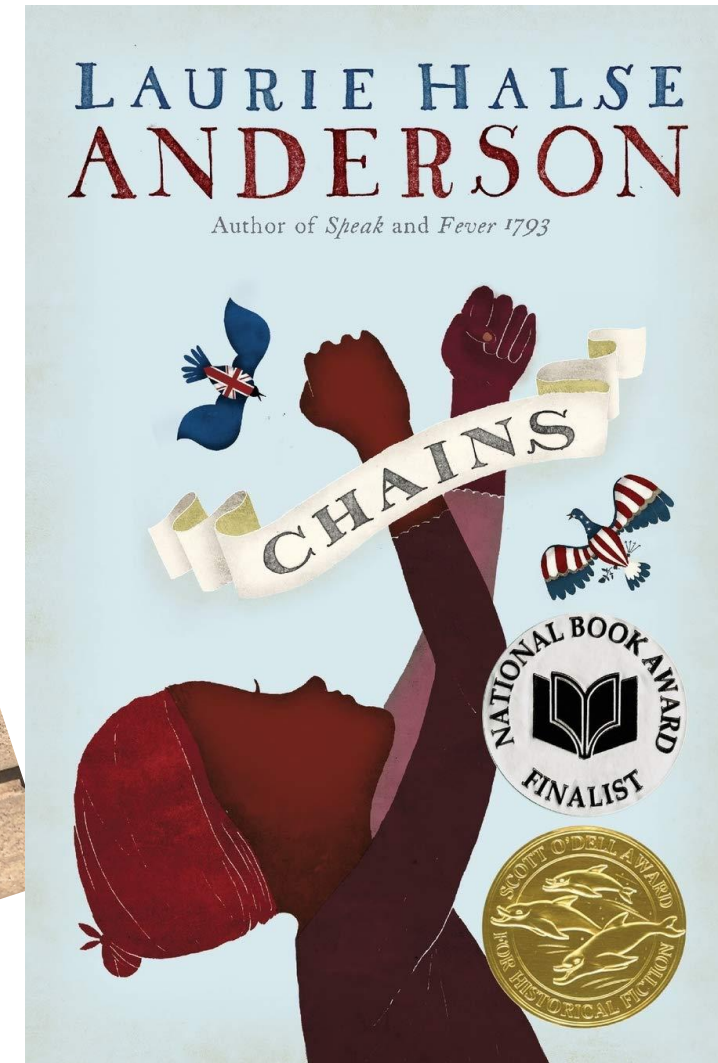
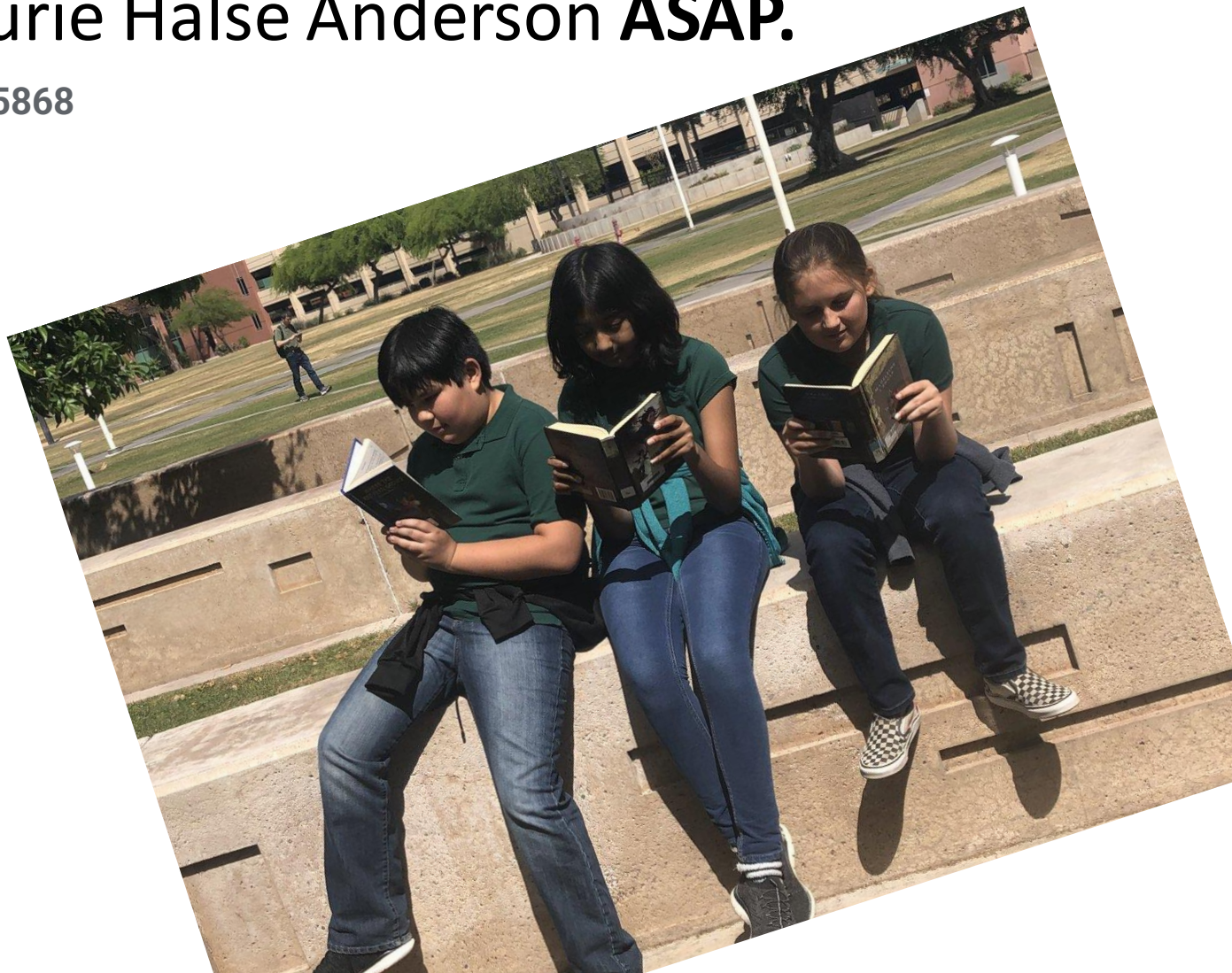


- Purchase and Read

# Chains

by Laurie Halse Anderson **ASAP.**

- ISBN: 9781416905868



# 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 13, 2023
- Essay for Regional Competition.....January 26, 2023
- Regional Competition ..... February 16, 2023
- Essay for State Competition ..... March 9, 2023
- State Competition .....March 30, 2023
- Essay for National Competition.....April 20, 2023
- National Competition, Garden Grove, CA, Online and Individual.....May 18-20, 2023



We can expect to travel to Garden Grove, California May 18-20, 2023 to attempt a threepeat as National Champions!

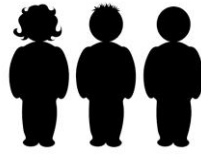
Full AcPen Team = Varsity



**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.



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:

- 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.



**USA**  
United States  
Academic Pentathlon

- 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!



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



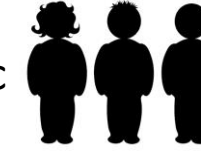
State  
Champions

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

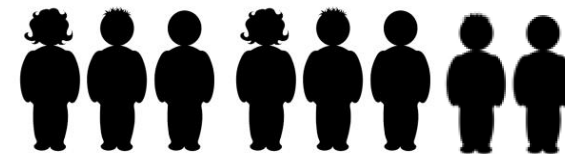
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Individuals – can  
still earn medals

Individuals =

Scholastic



Honor

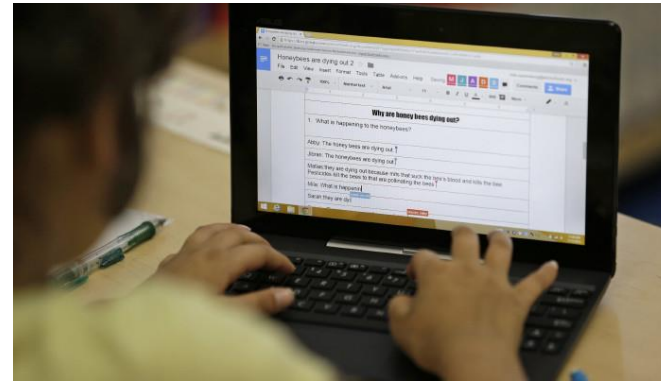
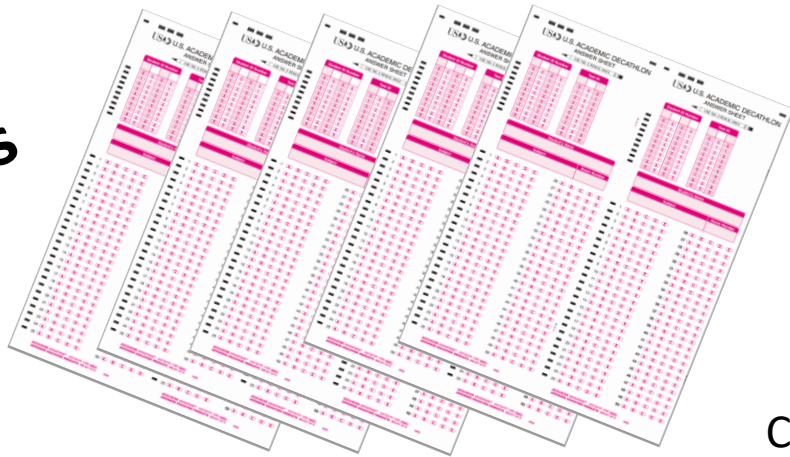


3 State  
Medalists

# 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 from their home computers in the event that the competitions cannot be held in person due to Covid-19. We do not anticipate that any longer.
- USAP is holding Nationals in Garden Grove, CA May 18-20, 2023.
- We will have to fundraise to get to California for Nationals.
  - Travel + Hotel stay + Competition Fees



Even in a normal year, all but the National Competition are online at the students' home school location. In the near future we are hoping to host a local, in person state competition.





# Awards

- **Individual Awards for each subject area: Medals**
  - **Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals**
    - 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 - \$30

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.

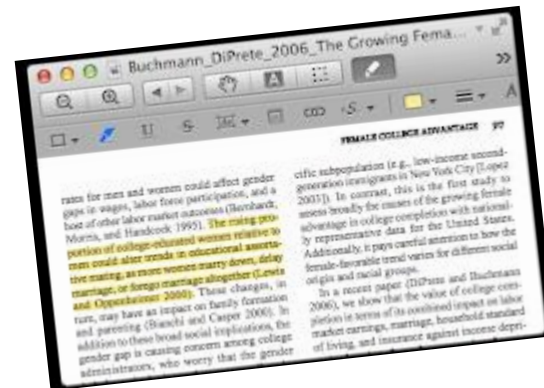


# To access 2022-2023 AcPen Resource Guides:

- 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](mailto: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)