

# WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

Each of you deserves congratulations for raising a student who elected to join Warren's Academic Decathlon team. We have prepared the accompanying materials to provide you with the answers to any questions you may have.

Academic decathlon participation requires a commitment and dedication to study in order to represent Warren on the competitive team. We look forward to meeting with you personally. In the event you need to reach us, e-mail has proven to be the most efficient means. Prior to any competition, specific emergency numbers will be provided. Once again, welcome and thanks in advance for all of your support.

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## **What is Academic Decathlon?**

Academic Decathlon is a team competition where students are tested in ten events: Art, Economics, Essay, Interview, Language and Literature, Mathematics, Music, Science, Social Science, and Speech and the Super Quiz Topic. The curriculum is nationally produced by the United States Academic Decathlon Association.

## **What are the expectations for students?**

The academic decathlon team is a voluntary extracurricular activity. If a student does not cheerfully comply with all coach's requests and NISD policies, your student may be removed from the course and/or competitive team at the coach's discretion.

## **What is the competitive team?**

USAD regulations require a team of nine students:

- 3 Honors (3.75-4.00)
- 3 Scholastic (3.00-3.74)
- 3 Varsity (2.99-0.00)
- 3 Alternates

The GPA is determined by core class grades from the past two academic years. A student may compete up a class, but a student may not be moved down a category. Honors courses are given the same weight as a regular course. Three students serve as alternates. Their transcripts are also submitted for verification and in the event a student is unable to compete, the alternate will take his place.

Will my student be on the competitive team?

There is no guarantee for any student that the student will be placed on the competitive team. The coaches will make a final decision and inform the students at the appropriate date. Participation in the course does not guarantee a student a spot on the competitive team.

## **What is the time commitment?**

In order to be successful, your student should average a minimum of an hour of study per day during the summer and through the month of September. Study time rapidly increases through October and November. There is a definite increase as we prepare for the final practice meet in December. If your student makes the competitive team, your student will be "living" with the AD binder and team until the regional competition. Practices throughout December and January include before and after school, Christmas holidays, weekends and

lunch time. Will my child's grades suffer with the emphasis on academic decathlon? It has been our experience that decathlon produces a long-lasting positive effect on GPA. Your student will certainly be challenged, but your student will receive one-on-one coaching in each content area as well as the invaluable preparation for the interview and speech events. Past decathletes will attest to the extensive studying as beneficial when facing AP exams as well as preparing your student to easily handle the volume of reading required in college.

### **How can I help?**

There are many opportunities to support the team. Financial donations are welcome and will be used to defray the costs of competition, study materials and travel. Over the winter holiday, each student typically hosts a team study session. Contributions for our after school study sessions are always appreciated. Most importantly, your student needs encouragement and support. Many family members choose to review flashcards with their student.

### **What is Speech ISM Honors?**

The course designation stands for speech independent study mentorship and it gives students an extra five points on their GPA. The course does not satisfy the graduation requirement for the communications applications. If your student has not yet taken the communications applications course, please contact Ms. Zablocki for additional information.

Dates to Remember- Subject to Change – Permission Slips and UIL eligibility required

There are no guarantees that any student shall compete.

October - 7 objective events, No essay, speech or interview

November - JAWS, Boerne

December Holmes practice meet Typically, teams from throughout Texas travel to this meet. Most of the top schools that consistently qualify for state competition compete.

Jan. Regional competition Essay, speech and interview events are completed Friday afternoon.

-Super Quiz Saturday afternoon

--Parents and relatives are encouraged to attend and cheer on your student.

--Awards ceremony, times, TBA

Feb. State meet if we qualify, the state meet is typically the last weekend in February.