To: Pentathlon Coaches and School Principals

From: Stacie Arancibia, Events and Community Engagement
Education Services, Merced County Office of Education

Re: 2021 Academic Pentathlon Program for Grades 6, 7, & 8

It is my pleasure to inform you that the Merced County Office of Education will once again host the Academic Pentathlon Program. The scrimmage (Round 1) will be available to schools/districts (February-March) to complete independently based on USAD regulations. The objective testing (Round 2) will be held at the MCOE Downtown Office on Tuesday, March 30 or Wednesday, March 31, 2021 (date based on district). The Super Quiz and Awards Ceremony will be on Saturday, April 24, 2021 at the Merced Theatre.

The following is the proposed format for the 2021 Academic Pentathlon. Please remember the timeframe is “tentative” until the confirmed time schedule with the location is completed. Beginning and end test times may vary, as each test is 30 minutes from the starting time.

**Objective Testing - Tuesday, March 30, 2021 or Wednesday, March 31, 2021**
8:30 a.m. Team Registration
8:45 a.m. Test Room Proctor Orientation (Coaches are Proctors)
9:15 a.m. General Session
9:30 a.m. First Test Begins – Fine Arts & Literature (50)
10:05 a.m. Second Test Begins – Math (35)
10:35 a.m. Snack Break
11:00 a.m. Third Test Begins – Science (50)
11:35 a.m. Fourth Test Begins – Social Science (50)

**Super Quiz and Awards - Saturday, April 24, 2021 - Merced Theatre**
11:30 p.m. - 12:00 p.m. Super Quiz Proctor Orientation
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Super Quiz – Art, Music, Literature, Science, Soc Science
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Dinner Break (on your own)
5:00 p.m. Award Ceremony

The registration fee is $360 per team. This will include curriculum materials provided by USAD, Round 1 Testing (Scrimmage), Round 2 Testing and Awards. Practice Quiz booklets will be available for an additional $40 charge per school. Each site is responsible for purchasing the novel on their own. The theme for 2021 is The Cold War. Student/team registration forms and volunteer forms may be downloaded from our Web site at www.mcoe.org/MercedStudentEvents. Intent Forms must be completed with a school contact email and funding information/payment to receive curriculum materials. Refunds are not available once materials have been ordered.

Please contact me at 381-5910 • sarancibia@mcoe.org if you need assistance.
The Academic Pentathlon was founded in 1984 as a means of fostering academic excellence among students who represent a wide diversity of personal and academic backgrounds and interests.

1. **HOW MANY MAKE UP A TEAM?** A team consists of six to twelve fully participating members (4 Honors, 4 Scholastic, 4 Varsity) for each grade level (6,7,8) from the same school. A school may have as many teams as they would like as long as each team pays the fee. It is required that at least one team be a full team (6 students - 2 from each category). Each team can have up to four students from each of the following categories: HONOR 3.75-4.00 GPA  SCHOLASTIC 3.00 - 3.74 GPA  VARSITY 1.00 - 2.99 GPA

   The top two cumulative scores in each category will count toward the team total so a team can participate with 6 members (2 each category) and still win team awards. All regular team members will be eligible for individual medals.

   **NOTE:** Contestants may compete in a higher category than his/her GPA, but not in a lower category (i.e., a Scholastic student may compete as an Honor student, but not as a Varsity student.)

2. **WHAT GRADES DETERMINE STUDENT ELIGIBILITY?** Only alpha (letter) grades for the subjects math, social science, language arts, and science from the first grading period of this current school year are used to determine placement of students in the academic categories. This excludes subjects such as P.E., art, and band. A letter grade with a plus (+) or a minus (-) will be given the number appropriate to the letter, i.e. A=4, B=3, C=2 and D=1. An affidavit/signature by the school’s administrator attesting to the validity of the student’s grades must be submitted. List each qualifying course individually instead of grouping.

3. **HOW IS PARTICIPATION INITIATED?** The school must file the Intent to Participate form by Friday, January 15, 2021.

4. **WHAT DOES PARTICIPATION INCLUDE?**
   **A)** A participation fee of $360.00 per team will be required to defray costs. This will include USAD curriculum materials (not including the novel), tests and awards. An additional fee of $40 will be charged for those schools wishing to order practice quiz booklets. Schools will not be able to receive curriculum materials without funding information or payment. Once curriculum materials are ordered teams cannot be refunded charges. **DO NOT ORDER MATERIALS DIRECTLY THROUGH USAD.**
   **B)** Participation requires a minimum of 1 volunteer per school for Super Quiz and 1 proctor per team for objective testing (coach). If volunteers are not provided, the school is subject to a surcharge of $75 per volunteer.

5. **HOW IS STUDENT REGISTRATION COMPLETED?** The student information, parent consent and medical release, and GPA affidavit must be completed for all students. All completed student registration forms must be returned to MCOE Events Office by March 5, 2021. ALL INFORMATION MUST BE NEATLY PRINTED OR TYPED. APPLICATIONS THAT ARE NOT CLEARLY LEGIBLE ARE SUBJECT TO RETURN.

6. **WHAT AWARDS ARE GIVEN?** Trophies, medals, plaques and ribbons are presented to participants for Round 2 only. Team plaques will be awarded to the participating twelve members only. Alternates are unable to receive awards.

7. **ROUND 1 SCRIMMAGE TESTS:** Participants will be able to participate in a scrimmage (on your own at district or school site) that will include all 4 regular tests but will not include a Super Quiz.

8. **ACADEMIC TESTS:** Participants will compete in five tests. These are Fine Arts & Literature, Mathematics, Science, Social Science and the Oral Super Quiz. Each test will be 30 minutes with the exception of the Oral Super Quiz. The Super Quiz test time will vary. Merced County does not compete in the essay portion. Do not prepare your students for Essay.


Merced County Academic Pentathlon
General Rules

1. CHEATING: If a proctor finds a contestant involved in any unauthorized communication or using any type of crib, the proctor must report the incident to the Pentathlon Coordinator. Upon a violation of these rules, the participant’s scores will be removed for that question or test, depending on the event. This includes the Oral Super Quiz. The decision of the Pentathlon Coordinator will be final and irrevocable.

2. IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS: All test materials pertaining to an individual contestant must contain their identification number to be acceptable for scoring. Scantron answer forms and nametags with the identification numbers will be provided to all regular team members.

3. LEAVING THE TESTROOM: If a contestant must leave the test room for any reason, they must first secure the permission of the proctor. The time lost may NOT be made up. Any ongoing test must be turned in and will be considered complete.

4. SUPER QUIZ: This event is held before a large audience; therefore, spectators are requested to be as quiet as possible to give each contestant an equal opportunity.
   A. No books or notes are allowed on the competition area.
   B. Coaches are not allowed to communicate with their students while in the competition area.
   C. The 6th, 7th and 8th grade competition will be conducted consecutively for all teams during a single time block.
   D. Four participants in a category (such as Varsity) will answer a set of questions at the same time and will be followed by the remaining category(s). Students will be able to answer collaboratively with the other three students on the floor. No audience help will be permitted.
   E. Scores will be displayed after each question. The top two scorers in each category will be counted and result in the winning team for this event. Scores are shown as a courtesy to teams and spectators. Scores are unofficial until verified by scoring team and announced at the awards ceremony.

5. TARDINESS: The competition will start on time. Teams arriving late will not be allowed to make up events missed. Individual contestants are charged with the responsibility of being in the proper test room at the time each test begins. If a contestant is tardy, he/she will NOT be allowed to make up time lost.

6. TEST MATERIALS: A basic 5-function calculator is recommended for the math test. The school or district must provide calculators. The test room proctor will supply all other materials, including a pencil, necessary for taking the various written tests. Contestants are NOT permitted to bring additional material or equipment to the test room.

7. WRITTEN TEST: Students will be given 30 minutes for each of the written tests. Test Room proctors are instructed to follow the test schedule. If a reason arises that a written test does not begin on the scheduled time the proctor will be responsible to start and stop the test for the 30-minute time frame.

8. ACCOMMODATIONS: We will make available all necessary accommodation requests based on the student’s IEP. In order to accommodate special testing procedures we need all information pertaining to the accommodation by March 5, 2021. Accommodations may still be requested after this date but our options may be limited.