



Motivation for Learning

The academic competitive programs of Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA) primarily motivate students to:

- **find new excitement in learning**
 - **achieve a higher mastery level**
 - **receive recognition /awards for academic excellence**
- PSIA programs are designed to support the basic academic curriculum and are easily implemented into daily studies to enrich academic skills.

Membership/Participation

Membership fees are **\$225** per year for “A” campuses or home school groups with **232<** grade 1-8 enrollment, **\$275** for “AA” campuses or school groups with **233>** grade 1-8 enrollment, and **\$45** for individuals or home schools. Participation fees are **\$35** per contest (**\$20** for individuals or home schools) with a maximum of **\$545** for all **59** contests, plus district entry fees up to **\$7** and an **\$8** fee per entry per event advancing to State to defray tournament costs. **For every 2.25 entries in a tournament, schools MUST provide 1 adult, college, or high school student position to assist in the administration of the meet.**

Fees entitle schools and individuals to each of the following products and services:

- **PSIA Academic Handbook** —Guidelines, contest administration instructions, rules, and samples for each of 19 contests within one resource (*Receive 2 Free handbooks if memberships are received by Oct. 1. A \$25 late fee will be assessed for memberships submitted after November 1. Memberships close DECEMBER 15.*)
- **Publishers’ resources discounts** of up to 50%;
- **Consistent rules interpretations** by experienced directors and/or the writers of contests—available by phone (toll-free), fax, web site, or email;
- **Original tests/curriculum** to incorporate contest study material into the classroom curriculum in order that all students may participate;
- **10% discount on first materials order received with membership by October 1**
- **Three levels of competition/ participation: Campus, District & State**

PSIA Academic Contests

	Grades Offered								Team Opt.*
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Art Memory				✓		✓			*
Calculator Applications							✓		*
Creative Writing	✓	✓							
Dictionary Skills				✓		✓			*
Impromptu Speaking							✓		
Listening Skills				✓		✓			*
Maps, Graphs & Charts				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*
Mathematics		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*
Modern Oratory							✓		
Music Memory			✓		✓		✓		*
Number Sense			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*
One-Act Play							✓		
On-Site Drawing						✓	✓	✓	
POETRY Interpretation				✓	✓	✓	✓		
Ready Writing			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Science						✓	✓	✓	*
Spelling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		*
Storytelling	✓	✓	✓						
Vocabulary					✓	✓	✓		*

Checked ✓ cells indicate grade levels at which tests are offered. State Meet medals are awarded to the top 6 in each of the contests checked above. *At District only, scores of 3 team members from a school may be added together for a team bonus for the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place teams.

Staff Support

The PSIA staff offers assistance to teachers, parents and school administrators from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Leave a message if we are not in. Your call will be returned. Contact Information:

- PO Box 2481, Grapevine, TX 76099, or call**
Pat Walters, EdD.- Director; **Bruce Walters** - Bus. Man.
Marguerite Cook.- Assistant Director
 • **Phone: 817-416-9504 • Fax: 817-421-0929**
 • **E-mail: info@psiaacademics.org**
 • **Web Site: www.psiaacademics.org**

Competition/Services

CAMPUS: All students may participate at the campus level, as selected by teachers/parents
DISTRICT: Through campus eliminations, as many as 3 students per grade level (unless otherwise stated in handbook instructions) may compete in one or more of the 19 events at the district tournament (*to be scheduled by district members between February 15 and March 29, 2014 / Area One-Act Play meets between Feb. 7 & April 12.*)

• Districts consist of 6-8 campuses+ home schools, or the equivalent of 7 full-participating schools.
STATE: Students from each of the **59** contests, as designated in each contest rules, advance to the state tournaments (tentative): “AA” school - Texas Christian University, in Fort Worth on **April 26**; “A” schools-TCU on **May 3**; 6 or 7 plays advance to the One-Act Play State Meet at a **location to be determined, on Sat., May 10, 2014.**

- **Tests** for district and state contests;
- **Practice materials and handbooks**
- **Assistance** in forming districts;
- **Direction of State tournaments;**
- **State awards** 800+ medals, 13 trophies for 1st - 3rd place elementary & middle schools, plus the top individual home school;
- **Training Workshops** for campus and district academic PSIA directors/coordinators/coaches;
- **Guidance and direction** by an advisory board representing the membership;
- **Support and assistance** in building your academic extracurricular program;
- **Resources** for campus participation;
- **The periodic Web News:** Updates and Announcement, + recognition of students/schools

Participation List

A membership / participation invitation mailing will go out to non-member private schools in early August. **2013-2014** memberships will be posted on the PSIA website in their chosen districts until memberships close **on Dec. 15, 2013.** Schools may attend or host an unlimited number of invitational meets, but each school may participate in only **one** PSIA district meet.

The Program at a Glance

Individual districts determine the number of entries per contest, up to 3 students. Rules for the number of students advancing to State in each event are stated specifically in the "Instructions for the Contestant" portions of the *Academic Handbook*, and briefly below.

Art Memory (4/5 & 6-8): Students are challenged to identify the artist and the work and answer questions about the art and the artists found in the *Art Smart Bulletin*, published every other year by TuneIn. **The 2013-2015 bulletin will be used this year. 2 advance to State from each combined grade level contest.**

Calculator Applications (6 - 8): This 30-minute contest develops mathematical reasoning and requires application of problem solving skills toward realistic problems. Any calculator may be used in competition. **Grades 6 through 8 are combined in this contest, with 2 advancing to State.**

Creative Writing (1 & 2): This event is designed to promote creativity and encourage writing skills at an early age. Using a prompt of several pictures, students have 30 minutes to create an original story based on the pictures. **1 student from each grade advances to State.**

Dictionary Skills (4/5 & 6-8): Students use all elements of the dictionary (*Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th edition) in the contest room, as they learn practical techniques for extracting and applying resource information. **Combined contests for grades 4/5 & 6-8, with the top 2 advancing from each combined contest to State.**

Impromptu Speaking (7/8): Students in grades 7 and 8 combined are challenged to think quickly and communicate effectively. They organize their thoughts on a topic for three minutes, then speak for five or fewer minutes without notes. **2 from combined grades advance.**

Listening (4/5 & 6-8): Good listening skills enhance any academic area, and the study materials are useful for all students. Contestants may take notes as they listen to the contest script on CD, and then use these notes as they answer objective test questions in 10 minutes. **2 advance from each combined grade level contest.**

Maps, Graphs & Charts (4, 5, 6, 7 & 8): Tests include maps, graphs & charts and multiple choice questions derived from *2008 or newer* editions of the *Nystrom Desk Atlas*, which students bring to the contest. The grade 6-8 test includes additional questions from the atlas and from general geography. **2 from each grade advance to State.**

Mathematics (2/3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8): In a comprehensive, multiple choice, 30-minute math test, students are challenged beyond their grade levels in a variety of general math questions, including algebraic equations introduced in grades 6-8. **2 from grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and combined grades 2/3 advance to State.**

Modern Oratory (7/8): A challenge in writing and speaking, grade 7 and 8 students (combined) prepare a short original speech to examine the pros and cons of an

issue (choice of 5) and defend their points of view, incorporating a variety of skills. Contestants take a convincing stand on only one side of the issue. **2 from the combined grade levels advance to State.**

Music Memory (3/4, 5/6 & 7/8): Students identify composers and selections from some of the world's best-known classics. Contestants hear segments of the music in competition and write the title and composer. Students take a 20-item test over concepts found in the current year's *PSIA Music Memory Student Handbook*. **2 from each combined grade level advance to State.**

Number Sense (4, 5, 6, 7 & 8): Contestants find high-speed solutions to math problems in this exciting and challenging 10-minute contest in mental mathematics. **2 from each grade level advance to State.**

One-Act Play (6 - 8): Students draw upon a wide range of skills as they work together to perform an **original** or published drama under time and set limitations. **6 to 8 schools advance to the state meet to be held on May 10 at a location in the Dallas / Fort Worth area.**

On-Site Drawing (6, 7 & 8): Contestants have 45 minutes to produce a rendering of a still life display (4 to 7 objects) on regular drawing paper using any media. Art work is judged by qualified artists and displayed in an art show. **2 from each grade level advance to State.**

POETRY Interpretation (4, 5, 6 & 7/8): Students select, prepare and read a literary poetry selection within a six-minute time limit. Presentations are evaluated on aspects of performance and overall effectiveness. **2 from grades 4, 5, 6, and combined grades 7/8 advance to State. (Prose in alternate years).**

Ready Writing (3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8): This event brings challenge for the gifted writer. Students are given a choice between two prompts. Each prompt defines the audience and provides or implies the purpose for writing. Time limits vary by grade. **2 advance from each grade.**

Science (6, 7 & 8): Earth, Life and Physical Science information found in current textbooks, plus items from current science publications list, are tested in this 30-minute, multiple choice contest, which usually consists of 50 test questions. **2 advance from each grade.**

Spelling (2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7/8): As spelling words are pronounced, contestants may either write or print each word. 20% of the test words come from outside sources; 80% come from the *Spelling List*. Different lists are published annually for 3 grade groups: 2-3; 4-5; and 6-8. **2 advance from grades 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and combined 7/8.**

Storytelling (1, 2 & 3): Contestants hear a story that they retell before an audience. Presentations are evaluated on aspects of performance and overall effectiveness **1 from each grade level advances to State.**

Vocabulary (5, 6 & 7/8): SAT preparation skills, including word usage, reading comprehension, and analogies, are honed through this challenging 30-item multiple choice, 30-minute contest. **2 advance from grades 5, 6, and combined 7/8.**

Academic Program Brief



2013 - 2014

Inspiring student achievement through academic competition