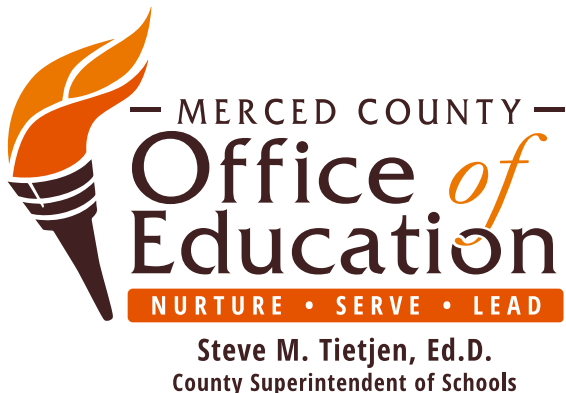




Merced County Academic Pentathlon

2023-2024
Information Packet



2023-2024

Merced County Academic Pentathlon

It is our pleasure to inform you that the Merced County Office of Education will once again host the Merced County Academic Pentathlon Program. The scrimmage (Round 1) will be available to schools/districts in February-March to complete independently online from school sites based on USAD regulations. The objective testing (Round 2) will be done online from school sites on Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

The Super Quiz and Awards will be on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at the Merced Theatre.

The following is the proposed format for the 2023 Academic Pentathlon. Please remember the timeframe and dates are tentative until the confirmed time schedule with the location is completed. Beginning and end test times may vary. Each test is 30 minutes from the start time with the exception on Literature which is 20 minutes.

Objective Testing - Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Online from school sites

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Super Quiz and Awards - Saturday, April 27, 2024

In-Person @ Merced Theatre

11:30 AM - 7:00 PM

The registration fee is \$400 per team. This will include regular curriculum materials provided by USAD, Round 1 and Round 2 Online Testing and Awards. An additional practice test booklet can be purchased for \$40 per school. Each site is responsible for purchasing the novel on their own. The 2024 theme is Technology & Humanity. Student/team registration forms and volunteer forms are available on the website www.mcoe.org/studentevents. Intent forms must be completed with a school contact email and funding information/payment to receive curriculum materials. Refunds are not available once materials are ordered.

Please contact Stacie Arancibia 209-381-5910 or sarancibia@mcoe.org for questions/more information.



Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

Merced County Academic Pentathlon

FAQ

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 6-12 participating members with up to 4 members from each division. A school may have as many teams as they would like as long as each team pays the fee. The top 2 cumulative scores in each division will count toward the team total so a team can be competitive with larger teams with 6 members (2 from each division) and still win team awards. All regular team members no matter team size are eligible for individual medals. Most teams are specific to one grade level. Combo teams are allowed but all members of the team will compete at the level of the highest grade on the team.
- 2. WHAT GRADES DETERMINE STUDENT DIVISION?** Only alpha (letter grades for the subjects math, social science, language arts, and science from the first grading period of the current school year are used to determine placement of students in the academic divisions. This excludes subjects such as P.E., art, band and electives. A letter grade with a plus (+) or minus (-) will be given the number appropriate to the letter, i.e. A=4, B=3, C=2 and D=1. A signature by the school's administrator attesting to the validity of the student's grades must be submitted. Please use the proper calculation form to determine placement.
- 3. HOW IS PARTICIPATION INITIATED?** The school must submit an Intent to Participate by Friday, January 13, 2023 with payment information. Schools are not eligible to receive curriculum materials without funding or payment information.
- 4. WHAT DOES PARTICIPATION INCLUDE?** The non-refundable \$400 team fee includes USAD materials, online testing access and awards. An additional \$40 per school fee will be charged for those wishing to order the practice quiz. DO NOT ORDER MATERIALS DIRECTLY THROUGH USAD. Participation requires a minimum of 1 volunteer per school for Super Quiz.
- 5. HOW IS STUDENT REGISTRATION COMPLETED?** The student information, parent consent, medical release, and GPA affidavit must be completed for all students. All completed student registration forms but be returned to MCOE EVENTS by March 3, 2023. Team Lists will be required from coaches in an online format.
- 6. WHAT AWARDS ARE GIVEN?** Trophies, medals and plaques are presented to participants for Round 2 only. Team awards are given to the participating twelve members only. Alternates are unable to receive awards unless they move into a regular team position.
- 7. WHAT ARE THE TESTS?** Participants will compete in 5 test subjects. The 5 test subjects are Fine Arts (Music and Art), Literature, Mathematics, Science and Social Science. Each test except Literature is 30 minutes. Literature is 20 minutes. Students will also compete in Super Quiz covering all subjects except Math. Scrimmage will not include a Super Quiz.

DIVISIONS

HONOR 4:00-3.75 GPA

SCHOLASTIC 3.74-3.00 GPA

VARSITY 2.99 or below

Students may compete in a higher category than their GPA, but not in a lower category.

(i.e. a Scholastic may compete as an Honor but not as Varsity)

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 rules, the participant's scores will be removed for all events, that question or test, depending on the infraction. This includes the Super Quiz.
2. **IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS:** All test materials pertaining to an individual contestant must contain their identification number to be acceptable for scoring. Online systems, scantrons answer forms and nametags with the identification numbers will be provided to all regular team members.
3. **LEAVING THE TEST ROOM:** If a contestant must leave the test room for any reason, they must first secure the permission of the proctor. The time lost CANNOT be made up and any ongoing test must be turned in and considered complete.
4. **SUPER QUIZ:** This event is held before a large audience; therefore spectators are requested be as quiet as possible to give all students an equal opportunity.
 - a. No books or notes are allowed in the competition area.
 - b. Coaches are not allowed to communicate with the 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 division (such as Varsity) will answer a set of question at the same time and will be followed by the remaining divisions. 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 award ceremony.
5. **TARDINESS:** The competition must start on time. Teams arriving late will not be allowed to make up missed events. 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 the calculator, scratch paper, and pencil for math tests. The program will supply online system for testing and scantrons/pencils for SQ.
7. **WRITTEN TEST:** Students will be given four 50 question tests for 30 minutes, except Literature which is 30 questions for 20 minutes.
8. **ACCOMMODATIONS:** We will make available all necessary accommodation requests based on the student's IEP. In order to accommodate special testings, we need all information pertaining to the accommodation by March 10, 2024. Some accommodations may still be requested after this date but due to using an outside testing company, the options may be limited without proper notice.