



2025-2026

ACADEMIC PROGRAM BRIEF

Our Mission

INSPIRE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Each year, over 150 private, parochial, and home schools in Grades 1 through 8 compete in academic contests across Texas. These contests motivate students to:

- find new excitement in learning,
- achieve a higher mastery level,
- receive recognition and awards for academic excellence

Contests are designed to support basic curricula and can easily be implemented into daily studies to enrich academic skills for students.

Membership & Participation

In-House Meet Fees: \$50 Includes study sessions, snacks, access to practice materials, a shirt, and up to 3 events at the District Meet.

District Meet Fees: \$12 /additional entry (4+)

State Meet Fees: \$18/entry

- **PSIA Study Groups** (snacks provided)
 - TBA—look for dates in the Memo!
- **In-House Competition (Veritas)**
 - TBA—top competitors from Veritas will have the honor of representing our school at the District Meet
- **District Competition (Brentwood Christian School)**
 - Sat, Feb 28
- **State Competition (Texas State University)**
 - Sat, May 2

Competition

Campus: All students may participate at the campus level, as selected by school officials, teachers, and/or parents.

District: Through campus eliminations, as many as 3 students per contest (based on grade level or combined grades) may compete in one or more of the 61 contests at the District Tournament. Districts consist of between 6 and 8 schools or the equivalent thereof.

State: Students from each of the 61 contests may advance to the State Tournament. The top 1-2 students will advance to the State meet.

Contest Categories

Individual districts determine the number of entries, up to three students per contest.

Art Memory (4/5 & 6/7/8): Students are challenged to identify the artist, their work, and answer questions about the art/artists found in the Art Smart Bulletin.

Calculator Applications (6/7/8): This contest develops mathematical reasoning/problem solving skills from real-life problems.

Creative Writing (1,2): This event is designed to promote creativity and encourage writing skills at an early age. Based on the captions and pictures, students have 30 minutes to create an original story.

Dictionary Skills (4/5 & 6/7/8): Students use all elements of the dictionary (*Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary, 11th Edition*) as they learn valuable research skills and apply reasoning to extract information.

Impromptu Speaking (7/8): Students are challenged to think quickly and communicate effectively in this contest. They organize their thoughts on a topic in 3 minutes and then speak for up to 5 minutes without notes.

Listening Skills (4/5 & 6/7/8): Good listening skills enhance all academic areas. Contestants take notes as they listen to prerecorded audio and then use their notes to answer 30 questions in this 7-minute contest.

Maps, Graphs, and Charts (4, 5, 6, 7, 8): Students use an atlas (preferably the Nystrom Desk Atlas, 2018 or newer) and provided maps, graphs, and charts to answer questions. Grades 6-8 have additional questions over geography, Texas History, and American History.

Mathematics (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8): In a comprehensive multiple choice, 30-minute test, students are challenged in a variety of general math questions. Grades 6-8 feature a section of special topics, chosen every two years, to enhance the curriculum. [1 contestant advances from Grades 2 and 3 each; 2 contestants advance from Grades 4-8 each.]

Modern Oratory Speaking (7/8): A challenge in writing and speaking, contestants select one topic from the list and prepare a short original speech to examine the pros and cons of an issue and defend their points, incorporating a variety of skills. Contestants take a stand on only one side of the issue.

CONTESTS CONTINUED ON THE BACK ---->

Music Memory (3/4, 5/6, & 7/8): Students identify composers and musical selections from the world's best classics and modern musical marvels. This two-part contest has students answer 20 multiple choice items and then identify composers and selections given a short audio clip.

Number Sense (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8): Contestants find high-speed solutions to math problems in this exciting and challenging 10-minute contest of mental mathematics.

On-Site Drawing (6, 7, 8): Contestants have 45 minutes to produce a rendering of a still life display of 4 to 7 objects on multi-use drawing paper. Art works are judged by qualified artists and teachers.

Oral Interpretation (4, 5, 6, 7/8): Contestants select, prepare, and read a literary selection within a 6-minute time limit with closed-book introduction. Presentations are evaluated on aspects of performance and overall effectiveness. Contest alternates between Poetry and Prose annually. 2026 is Prose.

Ready Writing (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8): This event brings challenge for the gifted writer. Students are given a choice between 2 prompts. Each prompt defines the audience and provides or implies the purpose for writing.

Science (6, 7, 8): Earth, Life, and Physical Science information found in current textbooks are tested in this 30-minute, 50-question multiple choice contest.

Spelling (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7/8): As spelling words are played from prerecorded audio, students write each word. The first 75% of the contest consists of words from the official Spelling Lists; the last 25% are outside words.

Storytelling (1, 2, 3): Contestants hear a story that they then retell before an audience. Presentations are evaluated on aspects of performance and overall effectiveness.

Vocabulary (5,6, & 7/8): Contestants are challenged to use their vocabulary to complete this 30-question test consisting of sentence completion, analogy, and reading comprehension questions. Great prep for college entrance exams as well as improving general vocabulary skills.

Contact

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