



ACADEMIC DECATHLON

COACHES MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026





Student Activities Team

Adriana Chavez | Shenita Jones
Norma Lopez | Christina Martinez
Kendall Russo | Omar Ovalle
Michelle Read | Thomas Hunter
Lennon Formaggini | Erika Escobedo
Antonio Verduzco | Julian Spearman

OUR PURPOSE

The Student Activities Department creates experiences for students to participate in extracurricular activities while providing students and teachers with necessary resources and support to be successful at no cost to schools.

PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students have opportunities to participate in academic competitions, athletics, visual and performing arts, JROTC, and campus-based organizations.

- **Develops** real-world leadership, teamwork, organization, and time management skills.
- **Encourages** students to discover new interests, talents, and potential career pathways.
- **Teaches** students to overcome setbacks, apply feedback, and embrace a growth mindset.
- **Fosters** friendships and a stronger sense of belonging within the school community.
- **Builds** confidence by providing opportunities to achieve goals, perform, compete, and celebrate accomplishments.
- **Enhances** the educational experience by encouraging engagement, increased motivation, and stronger academic performance.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES BY GRADE LEVEL

Elementary Schools

Academic UIL (2-6)
Cheer (4-6)
Chess (K-5)
Debate (5)
Destination Imagination
Esports (4-5)
Lone Star Challenge (4-6)
TMSCA (3-5)

Middle Schools

Academic UIL (6-8)
Cheer
Chess
Debate
Destination Imagination
Esports
Mahjong
Pentathlon
TMSCA
Yearbook

High Schools

Academic UIL (9-12)
Cheer
Chess
Debate
Decathlon
Destination Imagination
Esports
Newspaper
TMSCA
Yearbook



OUR SUPPORT TO CAMPUSES

Academic & Coach Support

- Access to equipment, curriculum, and study materials.
- Training, workshops and stipends for coaches.
- Dedicated program coordinators to provide year-round support.

Student Experience

- Meals provided during competitions.
- Student participation incentives.
- Celebration of achievement through medals and trophies.

Competitions & Events

- Participation in district-wide academic competitions and tournaments.
- Payment of competition registration fees.

Travel & Logistics

- Transportation to competitions.
- Travel arrangements and lodging for regional, state, & national advancement.



TIPS FOR RECRUITING STUDENTS

Use a Variety of Recruitment Methods:

- **Morning Announcements:** Promote upcoming informational meetings, practices, and events.
- **Interactive Fairs:** Host live demos and quick games during lunch/open houses.
- **Visual Campus Takeovers:** Vibrant posters featuring QR codes for instant digital sign-ups.
- **Modern Social Media:** Create engaging content that showcases practices and team culture.
- **Bring-a-Friend Days:** Encourage current members to invite classmates to attend a practice.
- **Personal Invitations:** Ask teachers, counselors, and administrators to refer students who would thrive in the program.
- **Parent Outreach:** Increase program visibility through the campus messenger, website, and newsletters.
- **Student Testimonials:** Have current participants share their experiences through videos, announcements, or classroom pitches.
- **No Experience Needed:** Emphasize that beginners are welcome.
- **Be Accessible:** Post meeting schedules and room locations in high traffic areas.
- **Promote with Us:** Repost photos and videos from [@disdactivities](#) to market your program.



TIPS: KEEPING & GROWING YOUR TEAMS

- **Make it Fun & Social** Build a welcoming, inclusive environment where every student feels like an important part of the team.
- **Practice with a Purpose** Keep meetings engaging, organized, and meaningful so students continue to grow.
- **Celebrate with Parents** Share student milestones and breakthroughs with their families.
- **Build Team Traditions** Create memorable experiences through spirit days, senior recognitions and end-of-season celebrations.
- **Ask for Student Feedback** Regularly ask students what they enjoy and how practices can be improved.
- **Shine a Light on Everyone** Celebrate effort, improvement, attendance, and sportsmanship.
- **Foster Student Leadership** Give students ownership through leadership roles, mentoring, and team responsibilities.
- **Invite Special Guests** Break up the routine by welcoming teachers, administrators, and families to participate in practices.
- **Make Downtime Fun** Bring cards, music, and board games to competitions to help the team bond between events.
- **Flaunt Your Success** Display trophies, awards, and projects in high-traffic campus display cases.



SURVEYS TO IMPROVE EXPERIENCES

Student Survey Results

How satisfied are you with the incentives provided?

95% Positive | 5% Negative

How many practices were held before the competition?

41% between 1-6 | 59% between 7-10+

Did you enjoy participating in this competition?

97% Positive | 3% Negative

Overall, did you have fun?

99% Positive | 1% Negative

Teacher Survey Results

How satisfied are you with the overall participation experience?

97% Positive | 3% Negative

How satisfied are you with the level of support from the department?

98% Positive | 2% Negative

How satisfied are you with the communication you received from the department?

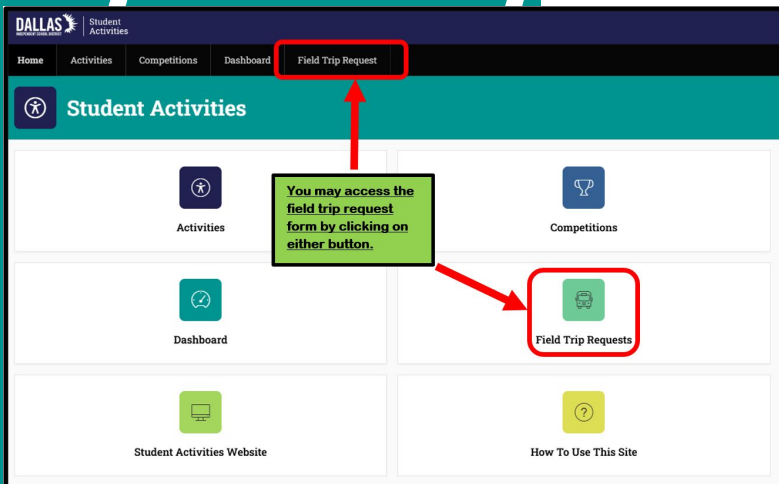
98% Positive | 2% Negative



FIELD TRIP REQUEST PROCESS

A field trip request **must be submitted** in order to attend any Student Activities sponsored events **regardless of transportation method**.

- Visit the Student Activities application at dallasisd.org/activities to complete the request. The application is also accessible through the Dallas ISD Portal.
- Submit at least 21 days prior to the trip. Deadlines will be communicated by the Student Activities program coordinator.
- **Note:** Principal approval of the field trip request is **required** for the campus to participate in the event.
- **After submitting the trip request**, upload the required documents: a roster, one signed permission slip per student, and a chaperone form (if applicable). **All forms are available for download within the trip request.**
- An email notification will be sent after your transportation request has been processed, indicating whether it has been approved or denied.
- Contact Omar Ovalle at ovalle@dallasisd.org or 469-439-1093 for assistance or to request bus cancellation. **Please do not cancel buses yourself.**



***A step-by-step Field Trip Request guide can be viewed [HERE](#)**

COACH EXPECTATIONS



Administrative Responsibilities

- **Conduct Practices:** Hold regular practices throughout the school year to prepare students for competition.
- **Meet Deadlines:** Submit student registrations, field trip requests, and required documentation by published deadlines.
- **Verify Eligibility:** Confirm that all participating students meet grade eligibility requirements.
- **District Policies:** Ensure students adhere to all Dallas ISD policies and expectations for behavior.
- **Rule Compliance:** Ensure students understand and follow all event rules and procedures.

Event Responsibilities

- **ID Badge:** Wear your Dallas ISD employee ID badge at all Student Activities-sponsored events.
- **Remain on Site:** Stay at the competition until the event has concluded and all students have been released.
- **Student Supervision:** If students provide their own transportation, remain on site until the last student has been picked up.
- **Bus Supervision:** Accompany your team on district-provided transportation.
- **Emergency Contacts:** Bring emergency contact information for all participating students.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- **Respect the Facility:** Leave classrooms, cafeterias, and holding areas cleaner than you found them.
- **Academic Integrity:** Cell phones and other unauthorized resources are prohibited during assessments.
- **Represent Your Campus:** Demonstrate good sportsmanship and treat competitors, staff, volunteers, and facilities with respect.
- **Follow Directions:** Promptly follow instructions from coaches, judges, event staff, and volunteers.
- **District Policies:** Comply with all Dallas ISD policies and procedures throughout workshops and tournaments.
- **Health & Safety:** Follow all Dallas ISD health and safety procedures throughout the event.
- **Backpack Policy:** Use only clear or mesh backpacks at Student Activities events.
- **Accountability:** Failure to meet these expectations may result in disqualification, removal from the event, or loss of future participation privileges.



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & CLUB REQUIREMENTS

STUDENT & TEACHER PARTICIPATION

- Students and teachers should have a **choice in participating**.
- Students must attend at least **nine meeting sessions** in the same club to get participation credit.
- **Students must have written parent's permission to participate.**
- Activity/club should sponsor at least **one event** that occurs outside of the set meeting time.
- Activity/club should help students feel **connected to the school** or part of a team.

CLUB OPERATIONS & STANDARDS

- Activity/club must be **posted on your school website**.
- Activity/club must have **student officers** (6th – 12th Grade Only).
- Activity/club should be **fun and memorable**.
- Activity/club should have a **set meeting time**, calendar of events, membership roster, and attendance sheets.
- Activity/club should engage participants in **student-centered learning**.





ACADEMIC DECATHLON

Thomas Hunter, Coordinator

972-749-5679

thohunter@dallasisd.org

ACDEC COACH DESIGNATIONS & AGREEMENTS

- Coordinators receive supplemental pay in accordance with agreement.
(\$1,000-\$5,800)
 - \$1,000 Recruit and start an Academic Decathlon team – Participate in the District Competition with a minimum of six team members.
 - \$1,000 Coach and participate in the Regional Competition with a minimum of six team members.
 - \$1500 Coach and participate in the State Competition.
 - \$1500 Coach and participate in the National Competition.
 - \$800 Coach and participate in the Virtual National Competition.
 - \$300 Coach and participate in the Rockwall Invitational Meet.

**SUPPLEMENTAL PAY
ACADEMIC DECATHLON COACH AGREEMENT**
**FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES WITH A TEACHING CERTIFICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED
ELIGIBLE FOR THE ACADEMIC DECATHLON STIPEND IF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA ARE MET:**

1. Recruit, build, and coach a team with 9 members
2. Provide students the opportunity to attend club meetings and practice for competitions throughout the school year
3. Submit all required paperwork by the requested due date
4. Participate in the District, Region, and State Academic Decathlon Competitions, as applicable
5. Attend meetings as scheduled
6. Attend scheduled trainings. If training falls outside the normal contract hours, the time will be compensated at the district approved professional training rate.
7. Adhere to all district policies, including at least one adult chaperone for every 10 students for school related trips
8. Complete all field trip paperwork required by campus and district
9. Make sure all volunteers complete the online volunteer application at <https://dallasisd.voly.org/>
10. Verify all students are academically eligible to compete in the competition – meaning they must be passing all classes
11. Sponsors must have student emergency contact information in their possession at the site of the event/competition.
12. For any trips occurring overnight, please make sure to include proof/documentation of having had a parent meeting

ANNUAL STIPEND (\$1,000 - \$5,800)*

(Two stipends available – one stipend per coach or may be split among multiple coaches)

- A stipend of \$1,000 per coach payable after completion has been recorded. Employee is only eligible to receive payment once designation has been accepted and signed via Oracle.
 - Recruit and start an Academic Decathlon team
 - Participate in the District Competition with a minimum of six team members*
- A stipend of \$1,000 per coach payable after completion has been recorded. Employee is only eligible to receive payment once designation has been accepted and signed via Oracle.
 - Coach and participate in the Regional Competition with a minimum of six team members*
- A stipend of \$1,500 per coach payable after completion has been recorded. Employee is only eligible to receive payment once designation has been accepted and signed via Oracle.
 - Coach and participate in the State Competition
- A stipend of \$1,500 per coach payable after completion has been recorded. Employee is only eligible to receive payment once designation has been accepted and signed via Oracle.
 - Coach and participate in the National Competition
- A stipend of \$800 per coach payable after completion has been recorded. Employee is only eligible to receive payment once designation has been accepted and signed via Oracle.
 - Coach and participate in the Virtual National Competition

OPTIONAL STIPEND (Requires Prior Approval)

(Two stipends available per school or each may be split among multiple coaches)

A stipend of \$300 per coach for participating in a local invitational competition, payable as worked

** Stipend payment is based upon participation in Student Activities Department-sponsored events with the required minimum number of students in attendance at each event. Student attendance less than the required minimum number of students will be payable at 50% of stipend amount per event as determined by the Student Activities Department.*



REGION CLASSIFICATION

LARGE

- BTWHSPVA

MEDIUM

- ADAMS
- ADAMSON
- HILLCREST
- MOLINA
- SAMUELL
- SEAGOVILLE
- SOC
- SUNSET
- WILSON

SMALL

- GARZA
- GILLIAM
- KIMBALL
- LASSITER
- LINCOLN
- MADISON
- NORTH DALLAS
- NORTHLAKE
- OBAMA
- PINKSTON
- RANGEL
- ROOSEVELT
- SPRUCE
- TOWNVIEW BUSINESS
- TOWNVIEW LAW
- TOWNVIEW SEM
- TOWNVIEW TAG
- YWSA



TEAM INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

Team of 9 Students:

- 3 Honor Students (3.85 – 4.00 GPA)
- 3 Scholastic Students (3.50 -3.8499 GPA)
- 3 Varsity Students (0.00 -3.499 GPA)

NEW THIS YEAR!

- GPA is calculated with accumulated and unweighted courses.
- Includes all courses taken during the summer before 9th grade to the end of the previous school year.
- 9th grade students will calculate based on 8th grade scores.

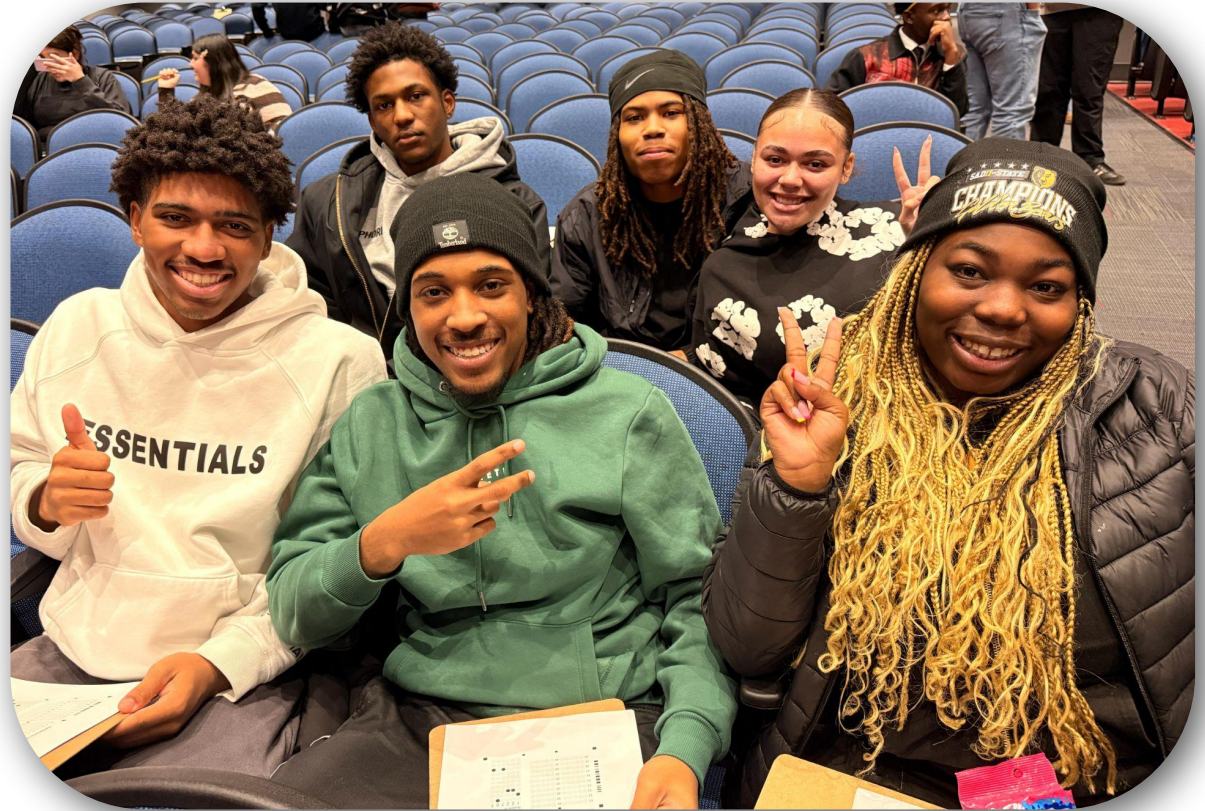
Total Local Credits: 1.00

Class Rank/GPA

Class Rank Date:	06/03/2025	Quartile:	1
Class Rank:	2	Class Size:	130
DISD Weighted GPA:	4.5588		
DISD Unweighted GPA:	3.9788		
DISD Cumulative GPA:	99.4706		

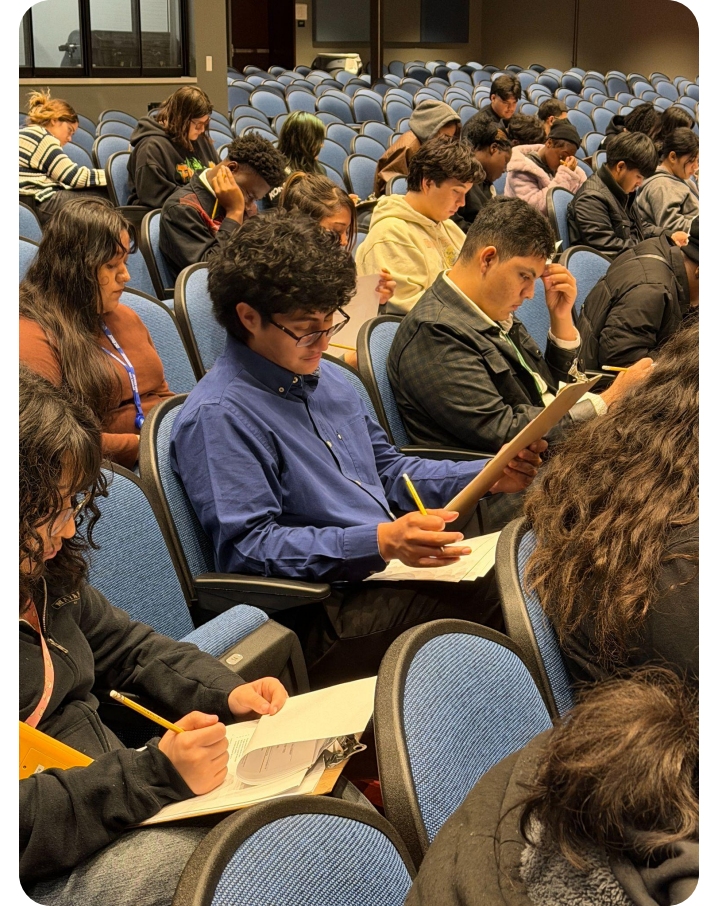
NEW CALCULATOR GUIDELINES

- Students will not be permitted to use calculators during any 2026–2027 Academic Decathlon competition events, including mathematics tests.
- The 2026–2027 Academic Decathlon mathematics tests will only include problems that do not require the use of a calculator.
- No calculators!



NEW QUESTION FORMAT

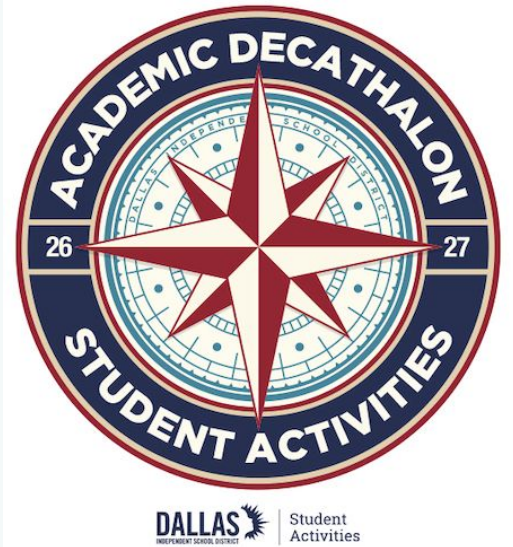
- Beginning with the 2026–2027 competition season, USAD/USAP multiple-choice questions will use four answer options (A–D) instead of five (A–E).
- This change is intended to better align with national testing practices, improve item quality by removing weak distractors and focusing on more plausible options, and increase efficiency and fairness for students by reducing unnecessary wording while still accurately measuring their knowledge.
- This decision is based on analysis of USAD and USAP National Tests over multiple competition seasons, which supports removing a fifth answer option so that test questions more clearly distinguish between higher- and lower-performing students.



2026-2027 THEME

JOURNEYS OF TRANSFORMATION: AN EXPLORATION OF TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

- **Art:** Travel and Transportation in Art
- **Economics:** An Introduction to Economics and the Economics of Transportation
- **Literature:** Journeys, Quests, and Travel in Literature
- **Mathematics:** General Mathematics, Geometry, and an Introduction to Differential Calculus
- **Music:** Travel and Transportation in Music
- **Science:** An Introduction to Animal Behavior and Migration
- **Social Science:** An Introduction to Human Geography and Migration
- Essay, Interview, Speech, & Super Quiz Relay
- **Novel:** *The Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro



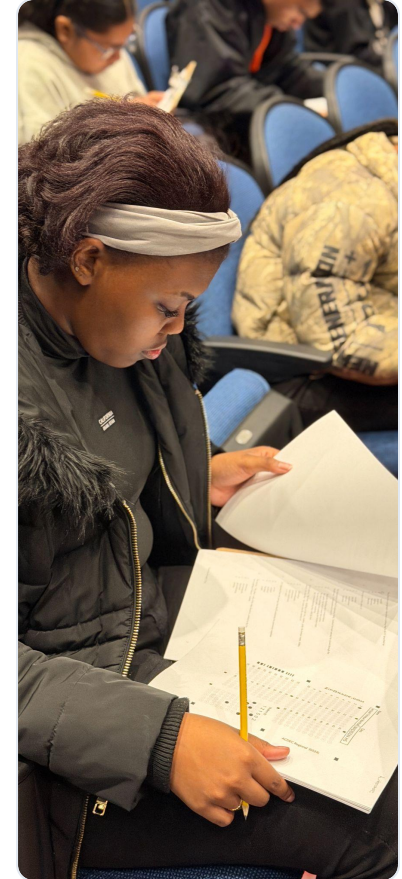
COMPETITION CALENDAR

Academic Decathlon Calendar 2026-2027

Event	Date	Day	Location	Time
Academic Decathlon Coaches Meeting	September 3, 2026	Thursday	Obama MLA, 3030 Stag Rd.	5:30 PM – 6:30 PM
Rockwall Registration & Transportation Deadline	October 14, 2026	Wednesday	dallasisd.org/activities	
Rockwall Invitational	October 31, 2026	Saturday	Rockwall High School	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
District Meet	November 7, 2026	Saturday	Virtual (Online)	9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Regional Packet Due	December 11, 2026	Friday	9400 N. Central Expressway, Suite 610	9:00 AM – 12 PM
Regional Registration & Transportation Deadline	December 11, 2026	Friday	dallasisd.org/activities	
Regional Essays	January 19-20, 2027	Tuesday-Wednesday	Google Document	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Regional Meet (Day 1)	January 29, 2027	Friday	James Madison HS, 3000 MLK Jr. Blvd.	11:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Regional Meet (Day 2)	January 30, 2027	Saturday	James Madison HS, 3000 MLK Jr. Blvd.	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
State Essays	February 10, 2027	Wednesday	Google Document	7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
State Meet	February 26-28, 2027	Thursday - Sunday	Dallas/Frisco/San Antonio	7:00 AM - 6:00 PM
USAD National Finals	April 29 - May 1, 2027	Thursday - Saturday	Bloomington, MN	7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

DISTRICT VIRTUAL COMPETITION

- Participation required for entry into the Regional Competition.
- Each school will be given **15** numbers for the online district competition taking place on November 7, 2026.
- You will assign numbers to your students according to the following:
 - **Numbers 1-5:** are for **Honors Students**
 - **Numbers 6-10:** are for **Scholastic Students**
 - **Numbers 11-15:** are for **Varsity Student**
- Please make sure to assign the correct number based on student classification.
- Email list of students with category & number on the day of competition.



STUDY MATERIALS & ONLINE RESOURCES

Located in the Resource Folder -

<https://tinyurl.com/DallasACDECFolder>

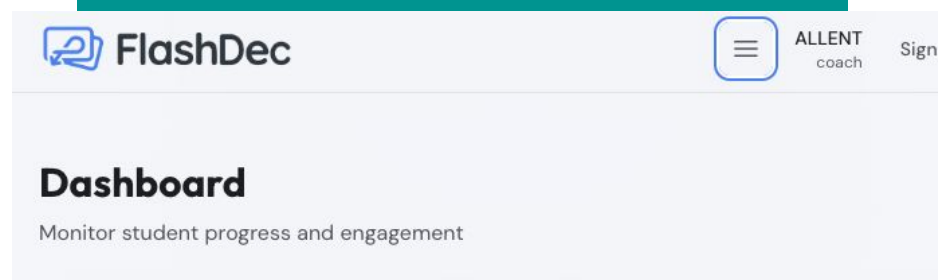
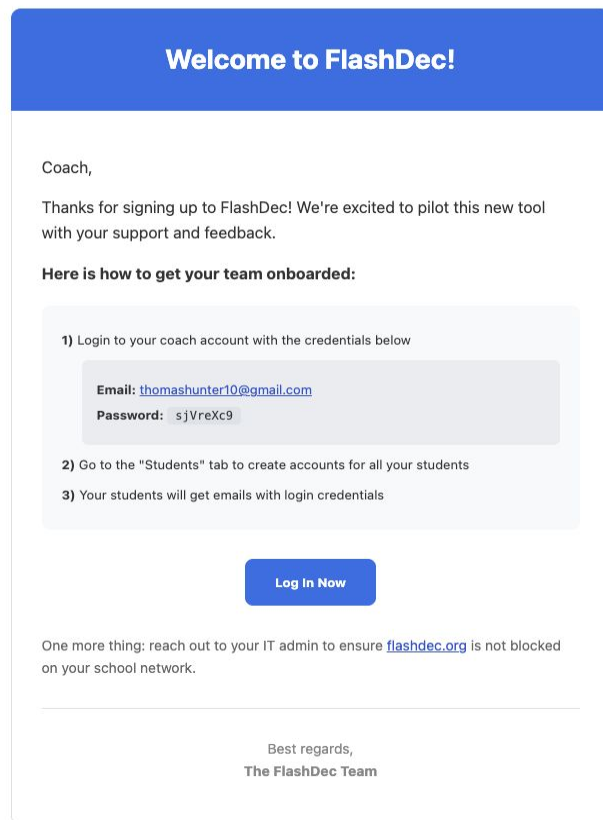
- Curriculum Package
 - Study Guide
 - Resource Guide
 - Mathematics Instructor's Manual
 - Art Reproductions Booklet
 - Music Track List
 - Practice Test Booklet
- Practice Level Tests
- Practice Combo Quizzes
- Super Quiz Relay Powerpoint
- Impromptu Topic Booklet
- Section-by-Section Tests
- Practice Specialty Tests
- Music Listening Quizzes
- Essay Resource Guide
- Essay Exam Booklet
- Novel Quizzes

● FlashDec - New online resource!

- **Details:** - The next generation of flashcards: digital, adaptive, and completely aligned to the Resource Guides.
- FlashDec transforms guide content into thousands of fill-in-the-blank prompts.
- Students test their recall, rate each card's difficulty, and the system automatically resurfaces tougher material more often, building lasting retention through proven spaced repetition techniques.
- Coaches can track study time, monitor progress by subject area, and identify knowledge gaps across their team.
- Let me know if you are having issues with the system
- You should have received an email with instructions on how to set up and get started!

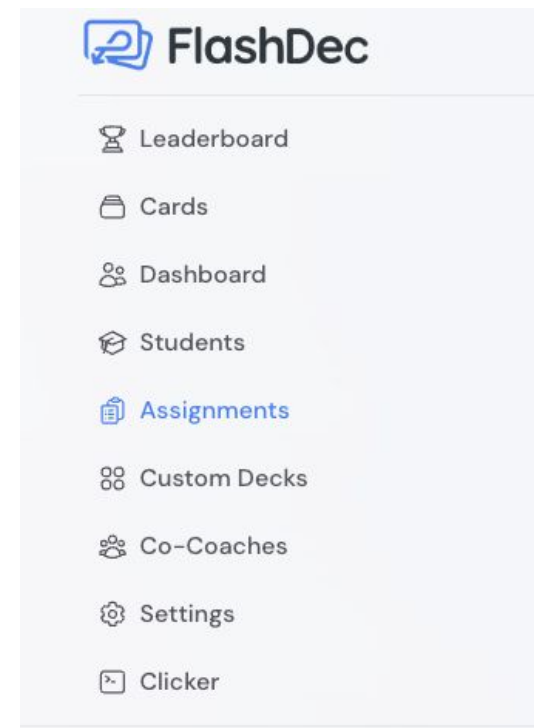
FLASHDEC GUIDE

- You will receive an email from FlashDec
- If you didn't let me know
- Enter user name and password exactly
- You CAN reset password



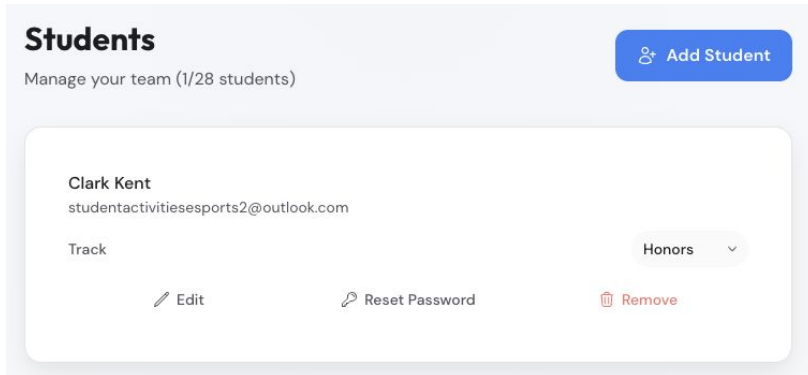
- From the drop down you can:
 - Track Students
 - Add Co-Coaches
 - View Activity

To access the features of the site - Click the 3 Lines to Open the Dropdown.



FLASHDEC GUIDE

Add students from the Student Page



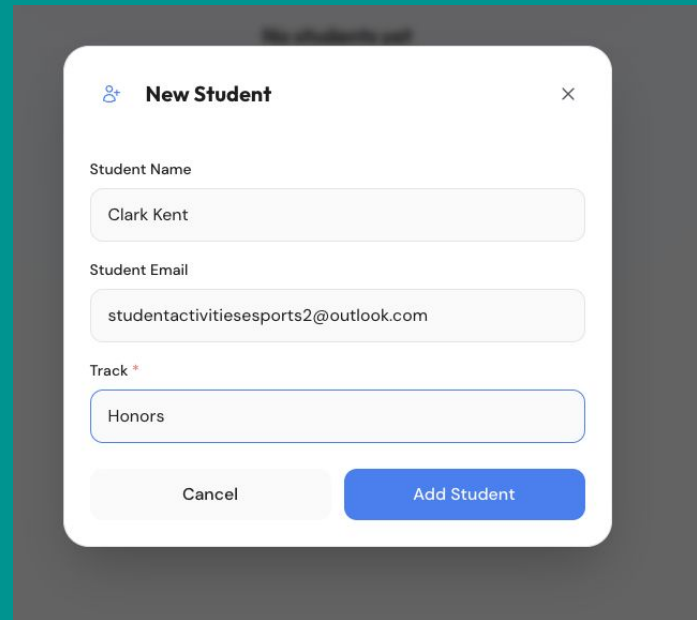
Students
Manage your team (1/28 students)

[Add Student](#)

Clark Kent
studentactivitiesesports2@outlook.com

Track: Honors

[Edit](#) [Reset Password](#) [Remove](#)



New Student

Student Name
Clark Kent

Student Email
studentactivitiesesports2@outlook.com

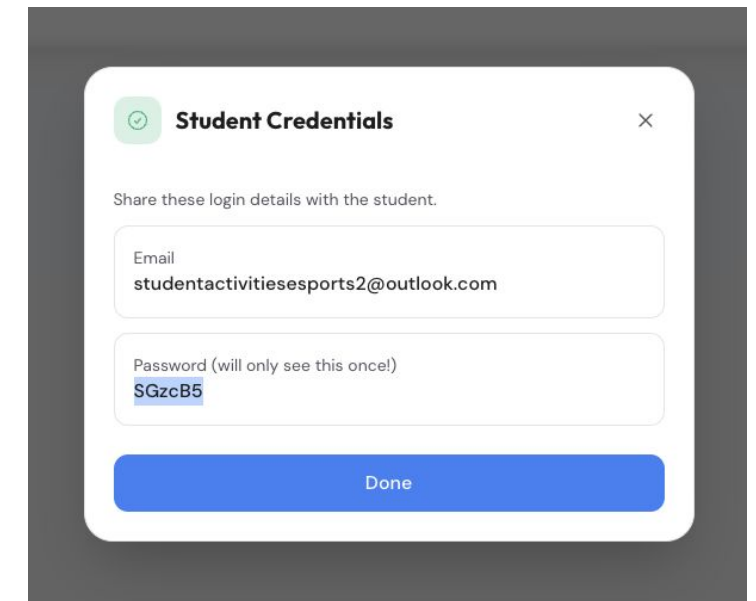
Track *
Honors

[Cancel](#) [Add Student](#)

Enter the student's:

- Name
- Email Address

- Once you add student:
 - You can view their username
 - You can view their password
 - An email will be sent to the student
 - As a teacher you can resend the password email



Student Credentials

Share these login details with the student.

Email
studentactivitiesesports2@outlook.com

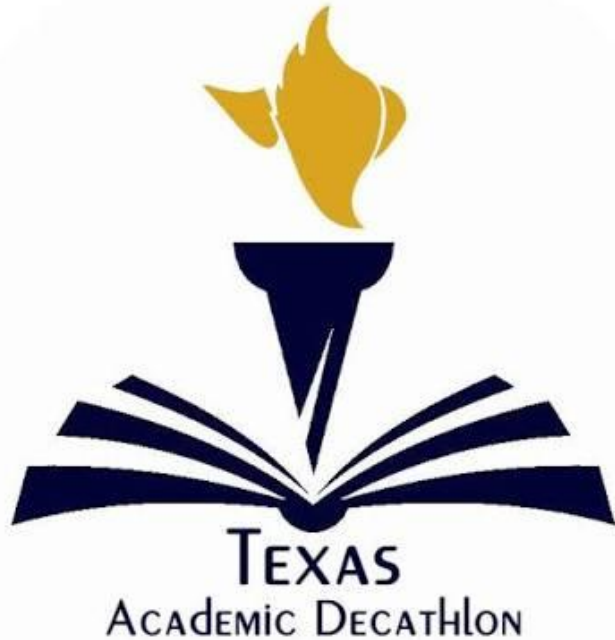
Password (will only see this once!)
SGzcB5

[Done](#)

FLASHDEC SOLUTIONS

Can't Login?

- Have you received a email from USAD that FlashDec has been distributed to you?
 - No - Let me know to add you to the materials list!
 - Yes - keep reading!
- Try resetting your password @
 - www.flashdec.org
 - You should receive a password reset email.
 - Reset your password and login.



TEXAS ACDEC TRAINING DAY

- Friday, September 18
- Irving, TX
- Attend in person or virtual
- [Register Here](#)



QUICK LINKS

- Student Activities Academic Decathlon
<https://www.dallasisd.org/studentactivities>
- Texas Academic Decathlon
<http://www.txacadec.org>
- United State Academic Decathlon
<https://www.usad.org>
- Academic Decathlon Coach Survey
<https://tinyurl.com/DallasACDEC>



THANK YOU

Questions?