



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 184< grade 1-8 enrollment, **\$275** for “AA” campuses or school groups with 185> 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 **\$6** 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 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						✓	✓	✓	
PROSE 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.
- **Phone: 1-888-972-PSIA (7742) or 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 18 and April 2, 2011 / Area One-Act Play meets between Feb. 15 & April 16.*)

• 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 (dates tentative): “AA” school - Texas Christian University, in Fort Worth on **April 30**; “A” schools-TCU on **May 7**; 6 or 7 plays advance to the One-Act Play State Meet at **TCU Landreth Auditorium, on Sat., May 14, 2011.**

- **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 summer membership / participation mailing will go out to private schools in early August. The 2010-2011 member list will be included on the “PSIA Web Site” under each district as membership forms are received and updated until memberships close **on Dec. 15, 2010.** 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 is stated specifically in the “Instructions for the Contestant” portions of the *Academic Handbook*, and briefly below.

Art Memory (4 & 5): This activity provides a panoramic picture of international cultural arts history through the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D. C., as well as Texas art history through museums located across the state. All prints are reproductions of paintings from these galleries. 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 2009-2011 bulletin will be in use this year. 2 students advance from combined grade levels to State.**

Calculator Applications (6 through 8): A thinker’s delight, this 30-minute contest develops mathematical reasoning and knowledge 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. One student at each grade level advances to State. **1 student from each grade advances to State.**

Dictionary Skills (4 through 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 through 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. **Combined for competition are grades 4 & 5 and grades 6-8, with the top 2 advancing to state from each combined contest.**

Maps, Graphs & Charts (4 through 8): This event provides students with experience in obtaining information from visual resources. Tests include maps, graphs & charts needed to answer multiple choice questions derived from the *2008 or newer* editions of the *Nystrom Desk Atlas*, which students bring to the contest. The grade 6-8 test includes additional questions from general geography and National Geographic GeoBee website. **2 from each grade advance to State.**

Mathematics (4 through 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 each grade 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 through 7): Students compete as individuals, awarded by grade level, to identify composers and selections from some of the world’s best-known classics. Contestants have approximately 30 seconds to write answers as they hear 15-second segments of the music in competition. Students also take a 20-item multiple choice/true-false test over concepts found in Arts Education IDEAS current year *PSIA Music Memory Student Handbook*. Multiple teaching resources also accompany the handbook. **1 from each grade level advances to State.**

Number Sense (4 through 8): Contestants find high-speed solutions to math problems in this exciting and challenging 10-minute contest in mental mathematics. **1 from each grade level advances to State.**

One-Act Play (6 through 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 or 7 schools advance to the state meet to be held at a time other than that of the Academic Meet.**

On-Site Drawing (6 through 8): Using a still life display consisting of from 4 to 7 objects, contestants produce a rendering on regular drawing paper using any drawing media. Contestants have 45 minutes at the contest site to produce their work of art to be judged by qualified artists and displayed in an art show during the remainder of the tournament day. **2 from each grade level advance to State.**

Academic Program Brief



Inspiring student achievement through academic competition

PROSE Interpretation (4 through 8): Students select, prepare and read a literary prose selection, with introduction, within a six-minute time limit. Presentations are evaluated on aspects of performance, such as introduction, control of presentation, appropriateness of selection, and overall effectiveness. **Grades 7 & 8 are combined for competition. 2 from each grade level advance, except 7/8, whereby 2 advance from combined 7/8 grade levels to State. (Poetry in alternate years).**

Ready Writing (3 through 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 through 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 through 8): As spelling words are pronounced at approximately five words per minute, contestants may either write or print each word. While 20% of the test words come from outside sources, 80% come from the *PSIA Spelling List*. A different list is published annually for 3 grade groups: 2 & 3; 4 & 5; and 6-8. **2 advance from each grade, except for combined grades 7/8.**

Storytelling (1 through 3): Contestants hear a story that they retell before an audience. This activity encourages the use of recall and also allows young students to bring their own expression and insight to the story. Contestants will have approximately 6 minutes to retell the story in their own words. **1 from each grade level advances to State.**

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