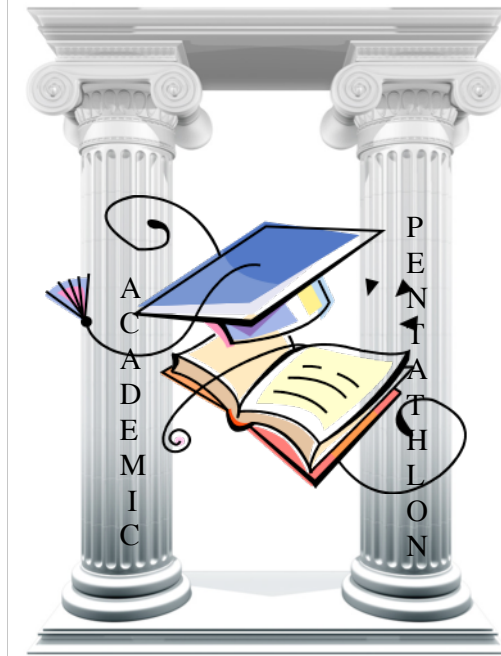


# 2017



MERCED COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

*Merced County Academic Pentathlon*

## INFORMATION PACKET



Steven E. Gomes, Ed.D.  
Merced County Superintendent of Schools

2017

*Merced County Academic Pentathlon*

To: Pentathlon Coaches and School Principal

From: Stacie Arancibia, Events Planner  
Educational Services

Re: 2017 Academic Pentathlon Program for Grades 6, 7, & 8

It is my pleasure to inform you that the Merced County Office of Education will once again host the Academic Pentathlon Program. **The scrimmage (Round 1) will be available to schools/districts based on USAD regulations. The competition (Round 2) will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at UC Merced. The Awards ceremony will be on Thursday, March 16, 2017 in the Golden Valley High School Gymnasium.**

The following is the proposed format for the 2017 Academic Pentathlon. Please remember the timeframe is “tentative” until the confirmed time schedule is completed. Beginning and end test times may vary, as each test is 30 minutes from the starting time.

8:00 a.m.	Test Room Proctor Registration - Orientation starting at 8:15 a.m.
8:15 a.m.	Team Registration
9:00 a.m.	General Session
9:15 a.m.	Students released to testing rooms
9:30 a.m.	First Test Begins – Fine Arts & Literature (50)
10:05 a.m.	Second Test Begins – Math (35)
10:35 a.m.	Snack Break
11:00 a.m.	Third Test Begins – Science (50)
11:35 a.m.	Fourth Test Begins – Social Science (50)
12:05 – 12:50 p.m.	Lunch Break
12:30 – 1:00	Super Quiz Proctor Orientation
1:00 p.m.	Super Quiz – <b>World War II (Art, Music, Lit, Sci, Soc Sci)</b>

The registration fee is \$300 per team. This will include curriculum materials provided by USAD, Round 1 Testing (Scrimmage), Round 2 Testing and Awards. **The theme for 2017 is World War II.** Student/team registration forms and volunteer forms may be downloaded from our Web site at <http://tinyurl.com/mcoestudentevents>, Intent Forms must be completed with a school contact email and funding information/payment to receive curriculum materials.

Please contact me at 381-5910 • [sarancibia@mcoe.org](mailto:sarancibia@mcoe.org) if you need assistance.



Steven E. Gomes, Ed.D.  
Merced County Superintendent of Schools



## Merced County Academic Pentathlon Frequently Asked . . .

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 COMPRISE A TEAM?** A team consists of nine fully participating members (3 Honors, 3 Scholastic, 3 Varsity) for each grade level (6,7,8) from the same school. A school may have a total of 27 participants. Each team is comprised of three students from each of the following categories:  
     HONOR 3.75-4.00 GPA   SCHOLASTIC 3.00 - 3.74 GPA   VARSITY 1.00 - 2.99 GPA  
 The top two cumulative scores in each category will count toward the team total so a team can participate with 6 members (2 each category) and still win team awards. All team members will be eligible for individual medals.  
**NOTE:** Contestants may compete in a higher category than his/her GPA, but not in a lower category (i.e., a Scholastic student may compete as an Honor student, but not as a Varsity student.)
2. **WHAT GRADES DETERMINE STUDENT ELIGIBILITY?** Only alpha (letter) grades for the subjects math, social science, language arts, and science from the first grading period of this current school year are used to determine placement of students in the academic categories. This excludes subjects such as P.E., art, and band. A letter grade with a plus (+) or a minus (-) will be given the number appropriate to the letter, i.e. A=4, B=3, C=2 and D=1. An affidavit/signature by the school's administrator attesting to the validity of the student's grades' must be submitted.
3. **HOW IS PARTICIPATION INITIATED?** The school must file the Intent to Participate form by Tuesday, January 3, 2017.
4. **WHAT DOES PARTICIPATION INCLUDE?** **A)** A participation fee of \$300.00 per team will be required to defray costs. This will include USAD materials, tests and awards. This fee must be paid by February 10, 2017 but schools will not be able to receive curriculum materials without funding information or payment. Once curriculum materials are ordered teams cannot be refunded charges. **B)** Participation requires \*4 volunteers per team on competition day. If volunteers are not provided, the school is subject to a surcharge of \$75 per volunteer.
5. **HOW IS STUDENT REGISTRATION COMPLETED?** The student information, parent consent and medical release, and GPA affidavit are all on the same form. All Completed student registration forms must be returned to MCOE Events Office.
6. **WHAT AWARDS ARE GIVEN?** Trophies, medals, plaques and ribbons are presented to participants for Round 2 only. Team plaques will be awarded to the participating nine members only. Alternates are unable to receive team awards.
7. **ROUND 1 SCRIMMAGE TESTS:** Participants will be able to participate in a scrimmage (Location and Date/Time TBD) that will include all 4 regular tests but will not include a Super Quiz. We are waiting on a decision from USAD as to whether or not Scrimmages can be administered by districts or the county office and will advise when their decision has been reached.
8. **ACADEMIC TESTS:** Participants will compete in five tests. These are Fine Arts & Literature, Mathematics, Science, Social Science and the Oral Super Quiz. Each test will be 30 minutes with the exception of the Oral Super Quiz. The Super Quiz test time will vary.

**Merced County Academic Pentathlon  
COMPETITION DAY  
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 these rules, the participant's scores will be removed for that question or test, depending on the event. This includes the Oral Super Quiz. The decision of the Pentathlon Coordinator will be final and irrevocable.
2. **IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS:** All test materials pertaining to an individual contestant must contain their identification number to be acceptable for scoring. Scantron answer forms with the identification numbers will be included in folders given to the test room proctors.
3. **LEAVING THE TESTROOM:** If a contestant must leave the test room for any reason, they must first secure the permission of the proctor. The time lost may NOT be made up. Any ongoing test must be turned in and will be considered complete.
4. **SUPER QUIZ:** This event is held before a large audience; therefore, spectators are requested to be as quiet as possible to give each contestant an equal opportunity.
  - A. No books or notes are allowed on the competition area.
  - B. Coaches are not allowed to associate with the contestants 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. Three participants in a category (such as Scholastic) will answer a set of questions at the same time and will be followed by the remaining category(s). Students will be able to answer collaboratively with the other two 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 awards ceremony.
5. **TARDINESS:** The competition will start on time. Teams arriving late will not be allowed to make up events missed. 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. The school or district must provide calculators. The test room proctor will supply all other materials, including a pencil, necessary for taking the various written tests. Contestants are NOT permitted to bring additional material or equipment to the test room other than a book to read quietly after completing and turning in tests.
7. **WRITTEN TEST:** Students will be given 30 minutes for each of the written tests. Test Room proctors are instructed to follow the test schedule. If a reason arises that a written test does not begin on the scheduled time the proctor will be responsible to start and stop the test during a 30-minute time frame.
8. **ALL INFORMATION MUST BE NEATLY PRINTED OR TYPED. APPLICATIONS THAT ARE NOT CLEARLY LEGIBLE ARE SUBJECT TO RETURN.**