

## 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 and 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 **\$295** per year for “A” campuses or home school groups with **200<** grade 1-8 enrollment, **\$345** for “AA” campuses or school groups with **201>** grade 1-8 enrollment, and **\$50** for individuals or home schools. Participation fees are **\$50** per contest (covers all grade levels event is offered) with a maximum of **\$745 (savings of \$205)** for all **62** contests, plus district entry fees up to **\$10** and a **\$15** fee per entry per event advancing to State to defray tournament costs. **For every 2.25 entries in a meet, schools MUST provide 1 qualified adult, college student, or high school student position to assist in the administration of the District and / or State 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 20 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, fax, website, 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							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Art Memory				✓			✓	
Calculator Applications							✓	
Creative Writing	✓	✓						*
Dictionary Skills				✓			✓	
Impromptu Speaking							✓	*
Information Skills						✓	✓	
Listening Skills				✓			✓	
Maps, Graphs & Charts				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mathematics		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Modern Oratory							✓	*
Music Memory			✓		✓		✓	
Number Sense				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
One-Act Play							✓	*
On-Site Drawing						✓	✓	✓
POETRY 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.

\*Subjective Contests - No ties are permitted in these contests

## 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 so that your call may be returned. Contact Information:

**PO Box 2481, Grapevine, TX 76099, or call**

**Pat Walters, EdD** - Director; **Bruce Walters** - Bus. Man.

• Phone: 817-416-9504 • Fax: 817-421-0929

• E-mail: [info@psiaacademics.org](mailto:info@psiaacademics.org)

• Web Site: [www.psiaacademics.org](http://www.psiaacademics.org)

## Competition/Services

• **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 grade level (*unless otherwise stated in handbook instructions*) may compete in one or more of the 62 contests at the district tournament (*to be scheduled by district members between February 12 and March 27, 2021 / Area One-Act Play meets between February 5 & March 20.*)

• Districts consist of 6-8 full campuses + home schools, or the equivalent thereof.

**STATE:** Students from each of the **62** contests, as designated in the contest rules, advance to the **State** tournaments: TBD-“AA” schools - Texas Christian University, in Fort Worth on **April 24**; TBD“A” schools-TCU on **May 1**; 6 plays advance to the One-Act Play State Meet at **NCTC Center for the Performing Arts in Gainesville on Fri-Sat, TBD, 2021.**

- **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/parents;
- **Guidance and direction** by an advisory board representing the membership;
- **Support and assistance** in building your academic extracurricular program;
- **Resources** for campus participation; and
- **Periodic Web News:** Updates and Announcement, + recognition of students and schools.

## Participation List

Members for **2020-2021** are posted on the PSIA website in their chosen districts until memberships close **on Dec. 15, 2020.**

# 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 are stated specifically in the “Instructions for the Contestant” portions of each contest in the *Academic Handbook*, and briefly below.**

**Art Memory (4/5 & 6-8):** 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 2019-2021 bulletin will be used this year. 2 advance to State from each combined grade level contest.**

**Calculator Applications (6 - 8):** This 30-minute contest develops mathematical reasoning 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 5 pictures, students have 30 minutes to create an original story based on the pictures. **1 student from each grade advances to State.**

**Dictionary Skills (4/5 & 6-8):** 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.**

**Information Skills (5/6 & 7/8):** Students use their internet devices to find answers on the internet for 24 questions in this 30-minute online research contest. **2 advance to State from each combined grade level contest.**

**Listening (4/5 & 6-8):** 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 **7 minutes. 2 advance to State from each combined grade level contest.**

**Maps, Graphs & Charts (4, 5, 6, 7 & 8):** Tests include maps, graphs & charts and multiple-choice questions derived from **2018 or newer** editions of the *Nystrom Desk Atlas*, which students bring to the contest. The grade 6-8 test includes additional questions from the atlas and from general geography. **2 from each grade advance to State.**

**Mathematics (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 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, except in grades 2 and 3, whereby only ONE advances.**

**Modern Oratory (7/8):** A challenge in writing and speaking, grade 7 & 8 students prepare a short original speech to examine the pros/cons of an issue and defend their points of view, incorporating a variety of skills. Contestants take a stand on only one side of the issue. **2 from the combined grade levels advance to State.**

**Music Memory (3/4, 5/6 & 7/8):** Students identify composers and selections from some of the world’s best-known classics. Contestants hear segments of the music in competition and write the title and composer. Students take a 20-item test over concepts found in the current year’s *UIL Passport* online program. **2 from each combined grade level advance to State.**

**Number Sense (4, 5, 6, 7 & 8):** Contestants find high-speed solutions to math problems in this exciting and challenging 10-minute contest in mental mathematics. **2 from each grade level advance to State.**

**One-Act Play (6 - 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 schools advance to the state meet to be held on a date TBD at NCTC Center for Performing Arts in Gainesville.**

**On-Site Drawing (6, 7 & 8):** Contestants have 45 minutes to produce a rendering of a still life display (4 to 7 objects) on multi-use drawing paper using any media. Art works are judged by qualified artists and displayed in an art show. **2 from each grade level advance to State.**

**POETRY Interpretation (4, 5, 6 & 7/8):** Students select, prepare and read a literary POETRY selection within a six-minute time limit. Presentations are evaluated on aspects of performance and overall effectiveness. **2 from grades 4, 5, 6, and combined grades 7/8 advance to State. (Prose is offered in alternate years).**

**Ready Writing (3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 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, 7 & 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, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7/8):** As spelling words are pronounced on an audio device, contestants may write or print each word. **25%** of the test words come from the outside source dictionary; **75%** come from the *Spelling List*. Different lists are published annually for 3 grade groups: 2-3; 4-5; and 6-8. **2 from each contest advance.**

**Storytelling (1, 2 & 3):** Contestants hear a story that they retell before an audience. Presentations are evaluated on aspects of performance and overall effectiveness. **1 from each grade level advances to State.**

**Vocabulary (5, 6 & 7/8):** SAT/PSAT preparation skills, including word usage, reading comprehension, and analogies, are honed through this challenging 30-item multiple choice, 30-minute contest. **2 advance from grades 5, 6, and combined 7/8 to State.**



## Academic Program Brief

2020 - 2021

Inspiring student achievement through academic competition

