PRESS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release  
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Avalon School Earns State Champion Honors


State championship honors went to Avalon School Team 1 in St. Paul with a score of 35,187.8 They will represent Minnesota at the United States Academic Decathlon Nationals in Anchorage, Alaska on April 30-May 2.

Second place went to Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial with a score of 34,954.7. They have earned a spot at the 2020 USAD Nationals in Division IV. Third place went Avalon Team 2 with a score of 30,173.9. St. Peter High School earned fourth place with a score of 29,490 and will have the opportunity to participate in the Invited Team Division at the 2020 USAD Nationals.

At the state event, students received scores for speech, interview and Super Quiz™. The essay test and seven other objective tests were completed online earlier in February.

The event concluded with an awards luncheon, featuring guest speaker David Sturge, an attorney and lung cancer survivor. He is also co-founder of Lung Cancer Foundation of America (LCFA).

Six students performed in a judge-selected Speech Showcase. This year’s Speech Showcase presenters were Reid Keir and Owen Clowney from Avalon School; Sophie Begnaud and Sam Germscheid from LCWM; Caitlyn Boos from Nevis High School and Charles Redmond from St. Peter. Regional and state awards were presented for individual and team accomplishments and for the Super Quiz team champion, Avalon Team 1.

 Participating high schools included Avalon School, Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial Secondary School, Nevis High School, and St. Peter High School. The fifth place team has the opportunity to participate in the USAD Online Nationals.

Also honored at this year’s MNAD awards luncheon were four coaches: Billy James and retired coach Sue Ehlers from LCWM, retired coach Mary Behrends from St. Peter High School and Jo Sullivan from Avalon High School. These four coaches collectively have nearly a century of service to academic decathlon and their teams – something to be thankful for!

Academic Decathlon, the premiere national scholastic competition for high school students, was created to provide opportunities for students to experience the challenges of rigorous team and individual academic competition. Each student competes in 10 events: Art, Economics, Essay, Interview, Literature, Math, Music, Science, Social Science and Speech. Students also compete in Super Quiz, an oral quiz-show event that includes questions from six topic areas.

A unique aspect of Academic Decathlon is that it is designed to include students from all academic ability and achievement levels. Each nine-member team consists of three honor students (3.750–4.00 GPA) three scholastic students (3.00–3.749 GPA) and three varsity students (0.00–2.99 GPA). Each team member competes in all of the 10 events against other students in their individual divisions, and team scores are calculated using the top two individual scores from each division.

Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded for individual events and overall scores. The broad base of awards allows for major recognition of academic accomplishment. For a complete list of individual and team winners, please visit the South Central Service Cooperative website www.mnscsc.org/decathlon.

A new theme of study is established every year with topics that are relevant, current and challenging. This year’s theme was In Sickness and in Health: An Exploration of Illness and Wellness. Next year’s topic will be announced March 1.

Interested in learning more about how to start a Minnesota Academic Decathlon team in your school? Please contact Joyce Swenson 507-389-5107. MNAD offers incentives for new teams, including free curriculum and waived team fees for the first year with a two-year commitment.

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