St. Peter Earns State Champion Honors

Minnesota high school teams competed in the Academic Decathlon® State Competition at Oak Ridge Hotel & Conference Center in Chaska Feb. 28-29.

State championship honors went to St. Peter Blue with a score of 38,053. They will represent Minnesota at the United States Academic Decathlon National Competition in Anchorage, Alaska April 28–30. Honors division Jennifer Bergeson broke a 2002 St. Peter school record with an overall individual score of 7,667.6.

Second place went to Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial (LCWM) with a score of 30,216.8m and third place went to Avalon School with a score of 27,571.3.

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

The event concluded with an awards luncheon, featuring guest speaker Babu Chimata from the India Association of Minnesota (IAM). Six students performed in a judge-selected Speech Showcase. This year’s Speech Showcase presenters were Claire Mathews-Lingen from Avalon School; Brady Swanson from LCWM; and Jennifer Bergeson, Katrina Creel, Rachael Obermiller and Winston Taylor from St. Peter. Regional and state awards were presented for individual and team accomplishments and for the Super Quiz™ Relay team champion.

Participating high schools included Avalon School, Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial Secondary School and St. Peter High School. Teams not selected to attend the national competition have the opportunity to participate in the online national competition. Students whose teams did not advance to the national competition also have the opportunity to compete as individuals at nationals.

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 the Super Quiz™ Relay, 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 “A” (Honors division), three “B” (Scholastic division), and three “C or below” (Varsity division) students. 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 http://www.mnscsc.org/student/decathlon.

A new theme of study is established every year with topics that are relevant, current and challenging. This year’s theme was India.

Interested in learning more about how to start an Academic Decathlon® team in your school? Please contact Joyce Swenson (507) 389-2461.

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