PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
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Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial Earns State Champion Honors


State championship honors went to Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial with a score of 35,876.9. They will represent Minnesota at the United States Academic Decathlon National Competition in Frisco, Texas April 19–21.

Second place went to St. Peter Blue with a score of 34,555.6 and third place went to Avalon School with a score of 33,022.6.

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 Dr. Paschal Kyiiripuo Kyoore, professor of French and African studies program director at Gustavus Adolphus College. Kyoore shared information on the 2017–2018 curricular theme, Africa. Six students performed in a judge-selected Speech Showcase. This year’s Speech Showcase presenters were Lily Barnes from Avalon School; Sophie Begnaud, Sam Germscheid and Carter Swanson, from LCWM; and Nils Berglund and Charles Redmond 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. The second and third place teams have the opportunity to participate at the national competition in Frisco, Texas in Division IV and the online national competition. Students whose teams did not advance to the national competition also have the opportunity to compete as individuals at nationals in person or online.

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 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 Africa. 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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