

2012 Academic Competitions: PSIA and St. Patrick's

What are PSIA and St. Patrick's?

These are two different academic contests/competitions that are held annually. Students in grades 1-8 compete with other private schools in over 15 various events such as spelling, geography, math, art memory, ready writing, prose reading, etc. Participation can motivate your child in these ways: refine mental aptitudes, bring new excitement to learning, experience a sense of pride and dignity, foster self-discipline and perseverance, achieve recognition for academic excellence, and have fun!

When & where will the competitions be held?

PSIA will be held on **Saturday**, Feb. 25, 2012 at THE HIGHLANDS SCHOOL St. Patrick's Academic Fair will be held on **Friday**, March 2, 2012 at ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL

How are students selected?

Interested students should fill out and return the attached "Interest Sheet". (Except 1st grade; teachers select students in 1st grade.) The actual events, and the number of students who can compete in them, vary by grade. Students should rank the events in order of their interest in competing. **EVERY FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY A PARENT.** Depending on the event and the grade, participants will be selected following the "**Competition Selection Process**" outlined below.

- **1st Method:** A **LOTTERY SYSTEM** might be used if there are more students wanting to compete in a particular event than there are spaces.
- **2nd Method:** A **TEST** might be given if there are more students interested in a particular event than there are spaces. (Any testing will occur in school.)
- **3rd Method:** A **PANEL, INCLUDING CKS TEACHERS**, might review all the interested candidates and then select the best match for the particular competition.
- **4th Method:** A **SCHOOL/CLASS COMPETITION** might be held and participants selected based on the results (for example: Poetry Week, Spelling Bee, Math Test, Art Contest, etc.).

Students who are selected are generally the students who are self-starters, eager learners, and have the ability to work in an intense environment. Contestants must maintain good conduct in the classroom in order to be considered as a potential competitor. Test scores, student's desire, and maturity all help identify those students who would be successful competitors and strong representatives from our school.

How are parents involved?

We have found that participants whose parents are actively involved in working with their children in extracurricular academic programs have the greatest success in competition, as well as in their future academic studies. Therefore, it is very important that parents help ensure their children do the necessary preparation work. It isn't fair to the student, or the school, to attend the competition without preparing adequately. In addition, both competitions are run by volunteers thus parents must be prepared to volunteer in some capacity if needed (i.e., hall monitors, judges, graders, making copies, or other administrative duties, etc.).

What are the next steps?

Complete and **Return the attached form to your child's teacher by WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST**.

Students will be notified of their selection in mid to late October, along with info on study materials and/or study groups.



PSIA and St. Patrick's 2012 Academic Fairs: Competition Overview & Sign-up Sheet



Form Must Be Returned by: Wednesday, September 21st

St. Patrick's Competition: Friday, March 2, 2012

PSIA Competition: Saturday, February 25, 2012

Student's Name: _____

Student's Grade/Class (i.e. 4G): _____

Parent's Signature: _____ (no forms accepted without a parent signature.)

_____ **Check this box if the STUDENT would be willing to participate in -- and adequately prepare for -- more than one event.**
 (There may be the opportunity to participate in more than one event. Consider this opportunity carefully as anyone who agrees to participate in more than one event must have the time to prepare for each.)

_____ **Check this box if the PARENT would be willing to help a few students prepare as a Group.**
 If yes, what event: _____. Comments: _____

Categories & Events	Event Description	Grades Competing	Rank Preference
Art			
Art Memory	Recognize artist and title of any of the 40 pieces of art provided in advance and take M/C & T/F test over Art Elements and Art History.	4 th & 5 th	
On-Site Drawing	Contestants produce a rendering in a time frame. Older students use a still life. Younger students are given an idea/concept to portray.	2 nd – 8 th	
Drama			
Impromptu Speaking	Students must organize their thoughts on a topic for 3 minutes, and then speak for ≤5 minutes on that topic without notes.	7 th & 8 th	
Poetry Reading/Interpretation	Each contestant picks a poem (or poems) and prepares a memorized introduction to the work. They present to panel of judges.	2 nd – 8 th	
Language Arts			
Creative Writing	Using a prompt of several pictures, students create an original story.	2 nd	
Ready Writing	Write a paper based on a choice of 2 prompts using one of three writing styles: 1) descriptive, 2) narrative, 3) persuasive.	3 rd – 8 th	
Listening Skills	Students listen to a recorded passage and simultaneously take notes then answer the M/C & T/F questions that follow.	4 th – 6 th	
Spelling	Memorize a list of spelling words given in advance. 20% of the words on the test are taken from "outside" the spelling list.	2 nd – 8 th	
Vocabulary	Study a list of 300 vocabulary words in advance and take a M/C test consisting of 30 questions.	6 th -8 th	
Math			
Algebra	A M/C test incorporating algebraic concepts taught in Algebra I.	8 th	
Written Math	Students are challenged in a variety of general math questions. They are able to use paper and pencil to solve the problems.	2 nd – 8 th	
Mental Math/Number Sense	Students solve math problems mentally. No written calculations are allowed; only the answer is written in the blank.	3 rd – 8 th	
Science			
Science	M/C test over Earth, Life and Physical Science information found in current textbooks, plus items from current science publication list.	6 th – 8 th	
Social Studies			
Maps, Graphs & Charts	Students locate and interpret information in an atlas or on charts and graphs, know directions and read legends including distances.	4 th – 7 th	
Geography	Questions taken from the grade level textbooks including basic geography skills and National Geography B's from previous years.	3 rd – 8 th	