

# 2016-17 Student Events

*Kern County*  
Superintendent  
*of Schools*

*Office of Christine Lizardi Frazier*  
*...advocates for children*



**Academic Decathlon**

**English Language Arts Events**

**History/Social Science Events**

**Math/Science Events**

**Visual/Performing Arts Events**

# Event Questions

**Event specific information is mailed to district superintendents and site principals.**

**Find more event specifics on our Web page located at:  
[www.kern.org](http://www.kern.org)**

**Look for:**

**Student Events Calendar**

**(located under “For Parents” in the pull-down menus)**

Questions?  
Contact Christine Goedhart-Humphrey  
Instructional Service Program Support Coordinator  
Kern County Superintendent of Schools  
(661) 636-4330 or [chumphrey@kern.org](mailto:chumphrey@kern.org)

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# Letter to Parents

**(Please copy and distribute to all parents at your school.)**

September 2016

Dear Parent:

We are thrilled that your child will be participating in one (or more) of the student events sponsored by the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office this year. Student events can be incredible motivators for students, and enhance student creativity, character and knowledge. Competition is demanding, but offers rich and rewarding experiences, regardless of event ranking. And remember, events should be fun!

We offer 15 competitive student events. Talk to your child and select events that are appropriate for him/her and that fit into your schedules.

Remind your child that not everyone wins an award. Whether or not your student places in the county competition is not as important as the life lessons revealed through the competition process. The world is full of disappointment, and many times we learn more and develop greater character when life does not go the way we expect.

Thank you for supporting your child in his/her academic pursuits. We wish you both a year full of rich experiences through competition.

Thank you,

The Student Events Team

# Student Event Etiquette

## (Important things to remember when competing)

- ✓ Students are kids and they should have FUN when competing.
- ✓ Teachers, parents, and students should demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.
- ✓ Things may not always go the way you and your child hope or expect, but make the best of the situation. Please remember that your student/child takes behavior cues from you.
- ✓ Talk to your child about disappointment and set an example of how to be gracious in disappointing situations.
- ✓ Judging is a subjective process and judges' decisions are final.
- ✓ Judges volunteer their time to make student events possible. Please do not express concerns or complaints to the volunteer judges. If you have a complaint, please find the event coordinator to express your concerns.
- ✓ We are guests at our event venues. Please be courteous and respect the property of others.
- ✓ Do not enter or leave a room during a presentation.
- ✓ Avoid unnecessary noise during a presentation.
- ✓ Turn off all cell phones and pagers when in a competition room.
- ✓ Ask permission of competitors before taking photos or videotaping them.

# District/School Responsibilities

**If your district/school decides to participate in student events, you may be asked to:**

- ✓ Provide volunteers to help with various aspects of the event
- ✓ Furnish judges for the event
- ✓ Provide a liaison with an e-mail address, who will act as event point person and share all correspondence with students, parents and other teachers at your site/district
- ✓ Share the “Letter to Parents” and “Event Etiquette” with your students and their parents

# Academic Decathlon

High school (grades 9-12) teams composed of nine students participate in a series of academically competitive events that include: writing an essay, participating in an oral interview, delivering prepared and impromptu speeches, taking tests in the academic areas of Music, Language and Literature, Art, Mathematics, Science, Economics and a Super Quiz.

## Academic Decathlon Coaches Meeting

Wednesday, October 12, 2016 • 3:30 p.m. CITY CENTRE, 318

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 • 3:30 p.m. CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor Conference Room

## Academic Decathlon Preparation Day

Wednesday, November 9, 2016

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB)

## Academic Decathlon Speech, Interview & Essay

Thursday, January 12, 2017

CITY CENTRE Building

## Academic Decathlon

Saturday, February 4, 2017

Mira Monte High School, 1800 S. Fairfax Rd

For more information contact:  
Cathie Morris, Coordinator  
at (661) 636-4593 or [camorris@kern.org](mailto:camorris@kern.org)  
[www.kern.org](http://www.kern.org) - Student Events

# English Language Arts Events

## Oral Language Festival

Grades 4-8

Regional Entry Deadline: Friday, December 16, 2016

Saturday, January 28, 2017 • 8:30 a.m.-1:45 p.m.

Stonecreek Junior High, 8000 Akers Rd., Bakersfield CA

Students memorize and present their interpretation of a published literary work, written by a known author. Presentations are 3-5 minutes in length with grades 4-6 and grades 7-8 competing separately. Categories of competition are: Verse Choir, Humorous Interpretation Solo, Humorous Interpretation Duo, Serious Interpretation Solo and Serious Interpretation Duo.

## Henry Greve Speech Contest

Grades 7-8

Regional Entry Deadline: Friday, March 3, 2017

Thursday, March 23, 2017 • 6:30 p.m.

CITY CENTRE Building - Room 1B

This event was established in 1955 for 7th and 8th grade students by the Bakersfield Toastmasters Club and offers students the opportunity to participate in a speech event. Students prepare a 4.5-7 minute speech on a designated topic. Topic and scoring guidelines can be found at <http://ci.kern.org/StudentEvents/english>.



# English Language Arts Events

## Kern Battle of the Books

Grades 4-6

School Team Entry Deadline: Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Registration: \$50 per school

4-6 North County Competition • TBA • 8:30 a.m.

4-6 South County Competition • TBA • 8:30 a.m.

TBA, Bakersfield CA

Grades 6-8

6-8 County Competition • Valley Oaks Charter School, Bakersfield • 8:30 a.m.

Students participate at their school by reading at least 20 books from the 4-6 or 6-8 grade booklist found on the “America’s Battle of the Books” website ([www.battleofthebooks.org](http://www.battleofthebooks.org)). Schools register teams of students with the Kern Reading Association ([www.kernreadingassociation.org](http://www.kernreadingassociation.org)). Students are then put in mixed school groups for the Kern Battle of the Books where teams are asked to name a book title and author based on questions developed for competition.

## Bank of America Essay/Speech Contest

Grades 4-6

Essays Due: Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Speech Competition: Thursday, May 11, 2017 • 6:30 p.m.

Reider Education Center

Students entering this event must prepare an informative essay on a designated topic. Essays are nominated by schools. Each school may nominate a 4th, 5th and 6th grade essay. Essays are judged and ranked by an evaluation panel. Approximately 10 essay writers at each grade level are selected to participate in the speech contest. Topic and scoring guidelines can be found at <http://ci.kern.org/StudentEvents/english>.

For more information contact:  
Teresa Twisselman, English Language Arts Coordinator  
at (661) 636-4645 or [tetwisselman@kern.org](mailto:tetwisselman@kern.org)  
[www.kern.org](http://www.kern.org) - Student Events

# History/Social Science Events

## Congressional Hearings Teachers/Coaches Meeting

Thursday, September 22, 2016 • 4:00 p.m.

CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor Boardroom

Friday, October 7, 2016 – Registration Deadline/Intent to Participate Due

Friday, October 7, 2016 – Judge Recruitment Due

## Congressional Hearings (District & Regional)

### “We the People. . .the Citizen and the Constitution”

Grades 11-12

Saturday, December 3, 2016

Golden Valley High School, 801 Hosking Avenue

The hearings consist of oral presentations by 11th and 12th grade government classes before simulated congressional committees. Following their presentations, students respond to judges' questions in a lively, open discussion format. Each competing class is divided into six expert teams, one team for each of the six hearing topics.

## History Day Teachers/Coaches Meeting

Tuesday, September 27, 2016 • 4:00 p.m. CITY CENTRE Room 1A

Friday, January 27, 2017 – Registration Deadline

Monday, February 13, 2017 – Websites locked for judging

Wednesday, February 15, 2017 – Historical Papers Due

## History Day

Grades 4-12

Saturday, March 4, 2017, Reider Education Center

History Day is an interdisciplinary program that encourages students to research and prepare papers, exhibits, posters, performances, and documentaries on an annual historical theme. Students learn to be historical detectives and sharpen their skills as writers, artists and performers.



# History/Social Science Events

## Mock Trial Teachers/Coaches Meeting

Tuesday, September 20, 2016 • 4:00 p.m.  
CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor Boardroom

Friday, September 9, 2016 – Intent to Participate Due

## Mock Trial Competition

Grades 9-12

Saturday, January 21, 2017 – Super Saturday & Awards Ceremony  
Kern County Superior Courts

Wednesday, December 14, 2016 – Kern County Regional Round 1

Wednesday, January 11, 2017 – Kern County Regional Round 2

High school teams compete in a series of mock trial rounds where students have the opportunity to participate as prosecution attorneys, defense attorneys, defendants and witnesses in a simulated case developed by the Constitutional Rights Foundation. Students acquire skills in public speaking, critical analysis and deduction.

## Open Doors to Federal Court

Grades 11-12

Wednesday, February 8, 2017 – Highland High School, 2900 Royal Scots Way

High school seniors and their teachers are invited to “Open Doors to Federal Courts,” a nationwide educational initiative. Students will participate in a mock trial, listen to presentations and ask questions of a variety of federal employees. The federal courts have a long-term commitment to civic education of high school seniors who are making the transition to adult citizenship.

For more information contact:  
Christine Goedhart-Humphrey, Instructional Services Program Support Coordinator  
at (661) 636-4330 or [chumphrey@kern.org](mailto:chumphrey@kern.org)  
[www.kern.org](http://www.kern.org) - Student Events

# Math/Science Events

## Mandatory Kern County Science Fair Teachers/Coaches Meeting

Teacher/Coaches must attend one of the following if they plan on entering restricted projects:

Thursday, October 6, 2016 • 4:00 p.m. • CITY CENTRE, 1B

Wednesday, November 2, 2016 • 4:00 p.m. • CITY CENTRE, 1B

## Kern County Science Fair (Grades 4-12)

Monday & Tuesday, March 13 & 14, 2017

Rabobank Convention Center

Friday, January 13, 2017 – School Intent to Participate deadline

Friday, January 13, 2017 – Restricted Project deadline

Tuesday, January 31, 2017 – Deadline for all projects

Monday, March 13, 2017 – Project Setup

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 – Project Judging and Awards

The Science Fair is an opportunity for students to learn about their world through experimentation and reasoning. The process challenges students to ask questions and try to find answers.

## Math Field Day Teachers/Coaches Meeting

Wednesday, January 25, 2017 • 4:00 p.m.

CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor

Wednesday, March 29, 2017 – School Intent to Participate deadline

Monday, April 10, 2017 – School Entries/Fees deadline

## Math Field Day (Grades 6-8)

Saturday, April 29, 2017

Liberty High School, 925 Jewetta Avenue

Math Field Day is a fun-filled day of learning and competing for middle school/junior high students. Tax Collector, School Problem Solving, Circle Tic Tac Toe, Circuit Training, Leap Frog, Mad Hatter, Power Relay, Kalah and Sudoku are among the math games in which students vie for school or individual recognition.

# **AVID Events**

## **AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)**

### **Middle School Portfolio Challenge**

Grades 6-8

Submission deadline: Friday, May 5, 2017

CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor

The AVID Middle School Portfolio Challenge is a portfolio reflection of student growth demonstrated by academic artifacts. All middle school students enrolled in an AVID program are eligible to participate. Electronic participation packets will be sent to eligible schools.

### **AVID -- Elementary Student Write-Off**

Grades 3-6

Submission deadline: Friday, April 28, 2017

CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor

The AVID -- Elementary Student Write-Off is a writing assignment designed to reflect on student growth in writing and metacognitive reflection of WICOR strategies. All elementary school students attending an AVID elementary school are eligible to participate. Electronic participation packets will be sent to eligible schools.

For more information contact:  
Gena Lieske, AVID Program Manager  
at (661) 636-4563 or [gelieske@kern.org](mailto:gelieske@kern.org)  
[www.kern.org](http://www.kern.org) - Student Events

# Visual/Performing Arts Events

## Children's Art Display at the Kern County Fair September 2016-17

Preschool through grade 8

**DISPLAY OF ENTRIES FOR 2016 FAIR:** Art entries from May 2016 will be displayed by grade at the Kern County Fair from September 21 through October 2, 2016. All artwork will be returned to the district of submission following the conclusion of the Fair.

**DELIVERY OF ENTRIES FOR 2017:** All art entries must be submitted to the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office on or before May 26, 2017, to Christine Goedhart-Humphrey at 1300 17th Street--CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor. Each class or school must include an Art Entry List with the students' artwork. Art Entry Lists and a completed sample are available from the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office. A Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office "Art Entry" tag must be filled out and firmly attached to the front and to the back of each entry.

**PREPARATION OF ENTRIES:** Art entries need to be matted. Do not submit entries in frames. Submit matted works only. Do not use expensive mats; the entries will be stapled for display. Schools should submit their work in an art folder or in a carton wrapped and marked with the school's name in ink. Three-dimensional art pieces (including papier-mâché) will not be accepted due to transportation, storage, and display constraints.

## Young People's Concerts

Grades K-12

Friday, October 7, 2016

Friday, November 4, 2016

Friday, February 3, 2017

Rabobank Convention Center

Young People's Concerts are presented by the Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra.



# Visual/Performing Arts Events

## Nutcracker Concerts

Grades K-12

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Friday, December 9, 2016

Rabobank Convention Center

Nutcracker Concerts are presented by the Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra. Ballet performance is by the Civic Dance Center.

## Grand Night for Music

Grades 9-12

Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Rabobank Convention Center

A concert presented by Kern County High Schools' Honor Band, Choir and Orchestra. Students earn a place in this annual showcase of Kern County's finest high school musicians and singers through an audition process.

## Honor Music Festival

Grades 6-8

Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Rabobank Convention Center

Junior high and middle school students earn a place in Honor Band, Chorus and Orchestra, after being selected through the audition process. Many hours of rehearsal prepare students for this incredible concert.

For more information contact:  
Christine Goedhart-Humphrey, Instructional Services Program Support Coordinator  
at (661) 636-4330 or [chumphrey@kern.org](mailto:chumphrey@kern.org)  
[www.kern.org](http://www.kern.org) - Student Events

# 2016-17 Chronological List of Events

Date	Event	Venue
September 12	KC College Night	Convention Center
September 20	Mock Trial Coaches Orientation Meeting	CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor Boardroom
September 22	Congressional Hearings Coaches Orientation Meeting	CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor Boardroom
September 27	History Day Coaches Orientation Meeting	CITY CENTRE, Room 1A
October 6	Science Fair Coaches Seminar	CITY CENTRE, Room 1B
October 7	Young People's Concerts	Convention Center
October 12	Academic Decathlon Coaching Meeting	CITY CENTRE, Room 318
November 2	Science Fair Coaches Seminar	CITY CENTRE, Room 1B
November 4	Young People's Concerts	Convention Center
November 9	Academic Decathlon Prep Day	CSUB, Dore Theater
December 3	Congressional Hearings (District & Regional)	Golden Valley High School
December 8-9	Nutcracker Performances	Convention Center
December 14	Mock Trial Regional Round 1	Kern County Court Buildings
January 11	Mock Trial Regional Round 2	Kern County Court Buildings
January 12	Academic Decathlon Essay, Interview, Speech	CITY CENTRE Building
January 21	Mock Trial Super Saturday	Kern County Superior Court Building
January 25	Math Field Day Coaches Meeting	CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor Boardroom
January 28	Oral Language Festival	Stonecreek Junior High
January 31	Grand Night for Music Concert	Convention Center
February 3	Young People's Concerts	Convention Center
February 4	Academic Decathlon	Mira Monte High School
February 8	Open Doors to Federal Court	Highland High School
February 25	Honor Music Festival Concert	Convention Center
March 4	History Day	Reider Education Center
March 13	KC Regional Science Fair Setup	Convention Center
March 14	KC Regional Science Fair Judging and Awards	Convention Center
March 23	Henry Greve Speech Contest	CITY CENTRE, Room 1B
March 23-26	State Academic Decathlon	Sacramento, CA
March 24-26	State Mock Trial	Riverside, CA
March 30	Science Fair Prep-Night	CITY CENTRE Rooms 1A & 1B
April 6	Academic Decathlon Coaches Meeting	CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor Boardroom
April 20-22	National Academic Decathlon	Madison, WI
April 24-25	State Science Fair	California Science Center
April 28	AVID Elementary Student Write-Off	CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor
April 29	Math Field Day	Liberty High School
May 5	AVID Middle School Portfolio Challenge	CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor
May 5-7	State History Day	William Jessup University, Placerville, CA
May 11	Bank of America Speech/Essay Contest	Reider Education Center
May 12-14	National Mock Trial	Hartford, CT
May 26	Fair Art Due	CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor
May TBA	Kern Battle of the Books	TBA
June 11-17	National History Day	University of Maryland