

# 2017-18 Student Events

*Kern County*  
Superintendent  
*of Schools*

*Office of Mary C. Barlow*  
*...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 2017

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 4, 2017 • 3:30 p.m. CITY CENTRE, 318

Wednesday, April 25, 2018 • 3:30 p.m. CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor Conference Room

## Academic Decathlon Preparation Day

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

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

California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB)

## Academic Decathlon Speech, Interview & Essay

Thursday, January 11, 2018

CITY CENTRE Building

## Academic Decathlon

Saturday, February 3, 2018

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 15, 2017

Saturday, January 27, 2018 • 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, February 23, 2018

Thursday, March 15, 2018 • 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 4-7 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 29, 2017

Registration: \$50 per school

4-6 North County Competition • Monday, April 30, 2018 • 8:30 a.m.

4-6 Central County Competition • Tuesday, May 1, 2018 • 8:30 a.m.

4-6 South County Competition • Friday, May 4, 2018 • 8:30 a.m.

Kern County Museum/Pioneer Village, Bakersfield CA

### Grades 6-8

School Team Entry Deadline: TBA

Registration: \$40 per school

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

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 4, 2018

Speech Competition: Thursday, May 10, 2018 • 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

Tuesday, September 26, 2017 • 4:00 p.m.

CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor Boardroom

Tuesday, October 10, 2017 • Registration Deadline/Intent to Participate Due

Tuesday, October 10, 2017 • Judge Recruitment Due

## Congressional Hearings (District & Regional)

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

Grades 11-12

Saturday, December 2, 2017

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 19, 2017 • 4:00 p.m. CITY CENTRE Room 1A

Friday, January 19, 2018 • Registration Deadline

Friday, February 9, 2018 • Websites locked for judging

Friday, February 9, 2018 • Historical Papers Due

## History Day

Grades 4-12

Saturday, March 3, 2018, 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, October 3, 2017 • 4:00 p.m.  
CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor Boardroom

Friday, September 19, 2017 • Intent to Participate Due

## Mock Trial Competition

Grades 9-12

Saturday, January 20, 2018 – Super Saturday & Awards Ceremony  
Kern County Superior Courts

Wednesday, December 13, 2017 • Kern County Regional Round 1

Wednesday, January 10, 2018 • 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 7, 2018 • 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, September 7, 2017 • 4:00 p.m. • CITY CENTRE, 1B

Wednesday, October 4, 2017 • 4:00 p.m. • CITY CENTRE, 1B

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

Monday & Tuesday, March 12 & 13, 2018

Rabobank Convention Center

Monday, December 18, 2017 – School Intent to Participate deadline

Monday, December 18, 2017 – Restricted Project deadline

Tuesday, January 23, 2018 – Deadline for all projects

Monday, March 12, 2018 – Project Setup

Tuesday, March 13, 2018 – 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

Monday, January 29, 2018 • 4:00 p.m.

CITY CENTRE, 1B

Wednesday, March 28, 2018 • School Intent to Participate deadline

Monday, April 9, 2018 • School Entries/Fees deadline

## Math Field Day (Grades 6-8)

Saturday, April 28, 2018

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 4, 2018

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 27, 2018

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 2017-18**

Preschool through grade 8

**DISPLAY OF ENTRIES FOR 2017 FAIR:** Art entries from May 2017 will be displayed by grade at the Kern County Fair from September 20 through October 1, 2017. All artwork will be returned to the district of submission following the conclusion of the Fair.

**DELIVERY OF ENTRIES FOR 2018:** All art entries must be submitted to the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office **on or before May 25, 2018**, 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 6, 2017

Friday, November 2, 2017

Friday, February 9, 2018

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 7, 2017 • 9:30 a.m. & 11a.m. • Rabobank Convention Center

Friday, December 8, 2017 • 9:30 a.m. & 11a.m. • Rabobank Convention Center

Nutcracker Concerts are presented by the Civic Dance Center.

## Grand Night for Music

Grades 9-12

Tuesday, January 30, 2018 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 24, 2018 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

# 2017-18 Chronological List of Events

Date	Event	Venue
September 7	Science Fair Coaches Seminar	CITY CENTRE, Room 1B
September 11	KC College Night	Convention Center
September 19	History Day Coaches Orientation Meeting	CITY CENTRE, Room 1A
September 26	Congressional Hearings Coaches Orientation Meeting	CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor Boardroom
October 3	Mock Trial Coaches Orientation Meeting	CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor Boardroom
October 4	Science Fair Coaches Seminar	CITY CENTRE, Room 1B
October 4	Academic Decathlon Coaching Meeting	CITY CENTRE, Room 318
October 6	Young People's Concerts	Convention Center
November 2	Young People's Concerts	Convention Center
November 8	Academic Decathlon Prep Day	CSUB, Dore Theater
December 2	Congressional Hearings (District & Regional)	Golden Valley High School
December 7 & 8	Nutcracker Performances	Convention Center
December 13	Mock Trial Regional Round 1	Kern County Court Buildings
January 10	Mock Trial Regional Round 2	Kern County Court Buildings
January 11	Academic Decathlon Essay, Interview, Speech	CITY CENTRE Building
January 20	Mock Trial Super Saturday	Kern County Superior Court Building
January 27	Oral Language Festival	Stonecreek Junior High
January 29	Math Field Day Coaches Meeting	CITY CENTRE, Room 1B
January 30	Grand Night for Music Concert	Convention Center
February 3	Academic Decathlon	Mira Monte High School
February 7	Open Doors to Federal Court	Highland High School
February 9	Young People's Concerts	Convention Center
February 24	Honor Music Festival Concert	Convention Center
March 3	History Day	Reider Education Center
March 12	KC Regional Science Fair Setup	Convention Center
March 13	KC Regional Science Fair Judging and Awards	Convention Center
March 15	Henry Greve Speech Contest	CITY CENTRE, Room 1B
March 22-25	State Academic Decathlon	Sacramento, CA
March 15-18	State Mock Trial	TBA, CA
March 22	Science Fair Prep-Night	CITY CENTRE Rooms 1A & 1B
April 19-21	National Academic Decathlon	Madison, WI
April TBA	State Science Fair	California Science Center
April 27	AVID Elementary Student Write-Off	CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor
April 28	Math Field Day	Liberty High School
April 30 - May 4	Kern Battle of the Books	Kern County Museum
May 4	AVID Middle School Portfolio Challenge	CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor
May 4-6	State History Day	William Jessup University, Placerville, CA
May 10	Bank of America Speech/Essay Contest	Reider Education Center
May 10-13	National Mock Trial	Hartford, CT
May 13-18	National Science Fair	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
May 25	Fair Art Due	CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor
June 10-14	National History Day	University of Maryland