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District/School Responsibilities

Event specific information is mailed to district superintendents and site principals. 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" that are on the following pages with your students and their parents.

Questions?

Contact Christine Goedhart-Humphrey
Instructional Services Program Support Coordinator
Kern County Superintendent of Schools
(661) 636-4330 or chhumphrey@kern.org

Find more event specifics on our Web page located at: https://kern.org/student-events/
Letter to Parents

October 2020

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, 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

• Students are kids and they should have FUN when competing.

• Teachers, parents, and students should demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. Teach may not prompt of coach students when competing virtually.

• 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 or email 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. Virtual competitions will be participants only.

• Avoid unnecessary noise during a presentation.

• Turn off all cell phones when in a competition room.

• Ask permission of competitors before taking photos or videotaping them.

• Be gracious in disappointing situations, and learn to be gracious in winning.
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, September 16, 2020 • 3:00 p.m. • Zoom Meeting

Academic Decathlon Online Essay
Tuesday, December 10, 2020 • Virtual Competition

Academic Decathlon Online Speech & Interview
January 26, 2021 • 3:00 p.m. • Interview Virtual Competition
January 26, 2021 • 4:30 p.m. • Speech Virtual Competition

Academic Decathlon Online Objective Testing
Saturday, February 6, 2021 • Virtual Competition

For more information about Academic Decathlon, contact:
Gena Lieske
AVID Program Manager
(661) 636-4563 or gelieske@kern.org

Christine Goedhart-Humphrey
Instructional Services Program Support Coordinator
(661) 636-4330 or chhumphrey@kern.org

English Language Arts Events

Oral Language Festival
Grades 4-8
Regional Entry Deadline: Monday, January 11, 2021
Saturday, February 20, 2021 • 8:30 a.m. — 1:45 p.m. • Virtual Competition

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 19, 2021
Thursday, March 18, 2021 • 6:30 p.m. • Virtual Competition

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 https://kern.org/student-events/english-language-arts/henry-greve-speech-contest/.
English Language Arts Events, cont.

Young Authors’ Fair
Grades K-12
Postponed until 2022 • 8:00 a.m.-noon • Larry E Reider Education Center, 2nd Floor — 2000 K Street, Bakersfield

The Young Authors’ Fair, sponsored by the Kern Reading Association, is the culmination of a week of author visits to Kern County schools. Open to the public, students, teachers and parents. Attendees can take part in school displays of student-authored books, author presentations, book sales and author autographing sessions. There is no charge for this event. Information can be found at http://www.kernreadingassociation.org/young-authors-fair.html.

Kern Battle of the Books
Grades 4-6 • Postponed until 2022
School Team Entry Deadline: TBA
Registration: $50 per school • Checks made payable to Kern Battle of the Books
4-6 South County Competition • TBA • 8:30 a.m. • Kern County Museum, Bakersfield
4-6 Central County Competition • TBA • 8:30 a.m. • Kern County Museum, Bakersfield
4-6 North County Competition • TBA • 8:30 a.m. • Kern County Museum, Bakersfield

Grades 6-8 • Postponed until 2022
School Team Entry Deadline: TBA
Registration: $40 per school • Checks made payable to Educational Services Foundation
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 book list found on the “America’s Battle of the Books” website (www.battleofthebooks.org). Schools register teams of 4th-6th grade students with the Kern Reading Association (http://www.kernreadingassociation.org/battle-of-the-books.html). 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: Friday, April 2, 2021
Speech Competition: Thursday, May 6, 2021 • 6:30 p.m. • Virtual Competition

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 https://kern.org/student-events/english-language-arts/bank-of-america-essay-speech-contest/.

For more information regarding ELA Events, contact:

• Marcie Frankhouser, Oral Language Coordinator, (661) 636-4239 or mafrankhouser@kern.org
• Lisa Vargas, Henry Greve Speech Contest Coordinator, (661) 636-4235 or anvargas@kern.org
• Michelle Young, Young Authors’ Fair Coordinator, Battle of the Books & Bank of America Coordinator, (661) 636-4505 or miyoung@kern.org
History/Social Science Events

Congressional Hearings Teachers/Coaches Meeting
Monday, September 21, 2020 • 2:30 p.m. • Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2020 • Registration Deadline/Intent to Participate Due
Tuesday, October 13, 2020 • Judge Recruitment Due
Congressional Hearings (District & Regional)

“We the People. . .the Citizen and the Constitution”
Grades 11-12
Saturday, December 5, 2020 • Virtual Competition

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
Monday, October 5, 2020 • 2:30 p.m. • Zoom Meeting
Monday, January 25, 2021 • Registration Deadline
Friday, February 12, 2021 • Websites locked for judging
Friday, February 12, 2021 • Historical Papers Due

History Day
Grades 4-12
Saturday, March 6, 2021 • Virtual Competition

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.

Mock Trial Teachers/Coaches Meeting
Postponed until 2021-22
Tuesday, October 5, 2021 • 3:30 p.m.
CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor Boardroom — 1300 17th Street, Bakersfield
Tuesday, October 5, 2021 • Intent to Participate Due

Mock Trial Competition
Grades 9-12
Saturday, January 22, 2022 • Super Saturday & Awards Ceremony
Kern County Superior Courts
Wednesday, December 8, 2021 • Kern County Regional Round 1
Wednesday, January 12, 2022 • 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.

For more information regarding History and Social Science Events, contact:
Christine Goedhart-Humphrey
Instructional Services Program
Support Coordinator
(661) 636-4330 or chhumphrey@kern.org
Open Doors to Federal Court
Grades 11-12
Event postponed until 2022 • Highland High School, 2900 Royal Scots Way, Bakersfield

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.

STEM 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 10, 2020 • 4:00 p.m. • Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2020 • 4:00 p.m. • Zoom Meeting

Kern County Science Fair (Grades 4-12)
Monday & Tuesday, March 16 & 17, 2021 • Mechanics Bank Convention Center
Friday, December 18, 2020 – School Intent to Participate and Restricted Project deadline
Friday, January 22, 2021 – Deadline for all projects
Monday, March 15, 2021 – Project Setup
Tuesday, March 16, 2021 – 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.

Science Olympiad (Grades 6-8) - Replacing Math Field Day Event
Saturday, February 27, 2021 • Virtual Competition

The Science Olympiad Tournament is an opportunity for students to work together in teams of up to 15 to compete in 23 events. The events change from year to year, covering fields and topics including: anatomy and biology, earth science, chemistry, physics, geology, mechanical and structural engineering, and technology.

Kern Codes (Grades 6-12)
TBD • Virtual Competition

Computer programming event to introduce student participants to coding. Students will be able to learn and compete in this coding event to apply what they know and show off their creativity. Acquiring computer coding skills opens teenagers up to diverse job markets, creates hands-on learning experiences, and enhances problem-solving skills.

For more information regarding STEM Events, contact:
• Michelle Roy, Science Coordinator at (661) 636-4640 or miroy@kern.org
• Cole Sampson, Math Coordinator at (661) 636-4676 or cosampson@kern.org
AVID Events

AVID — Elementary Student Write-Off
Grades 3-6
Submission deadline: Postponed until 2021-22
CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor — 1300 17th Street, Bakersfield

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.

AVID — Middle School Portfolio Challenge
Grades 6-8
Submission deadline: Postponed until 2021-22
CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor — 1300 17th Street, Bakersfield

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.

Visual/Performing Arts Events

Cultural Art Showcase
February Virtual Showcase
Preschool through Grade 12th

The Kern County Superintendent of School Office would like to showcase our local youths’ artwork in a virtual showcase. We will showcase students’ art expressing their culture, environments and views of their world. This event is designed to focus on our preschool, special education and K-12 students work in the arts.

DISPLAY OF ENTRIES: Art entries will be displayed by grade on a Public Canvas site from February to June.

DELIVERY OF ENTRIES: All art entries must be submitted to the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office on or before January 15, 2021, to Alicia Mil, at almil@kern.org. Each class or school must include a brief description of the piece, student name and grade. Art entries can be sculpture, paintings, pastels, watercolor, photography, poetry, original song (performed work), dance, etc.

PREPARATION OF ENTRIES: Art entries need to be scanned, recorded or photographed for virtual display. Multiple images may be submitted for 3-dimensional artwork. Files should be emailed or shared with Alicia Mil, at almil@kern.org.
Visual/Performing Arts Events, cont.

Young People’s Concerts
Grades K-12
Thursday, February 11, 2021 • Mechanics Bank Convention Center

Young People’s Concerts are presented by the Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra

Nutcracker Concerts
Grades K-12
Postponed until 2021 • Thursday, December 9, 2021 • 9:30 a.m. & 11a.m.
Bakersfield Convention Center

Friday, December 10, 2021 • 9:30 a.m. & 11a.m. • Mechanics Bank Convention Center

Nutcracker Concerts are presented by the Civic Dance Center.

Grand Night for Music
Grades 9-12
Postponed until 2022 • Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. • Mechanics Bank 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
Postponed until 2022 • Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. • Mechanics Bank 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 regarding Visual and Performing Arts Events, contact:

Christine Goedhart-Humphrey
Instructional Services Program Support Coordinator
(661) 636-4330 or chhumphrey@kern.org
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<td>September 14</td>
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<td>September 21</td>
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<td>January TBD</td>
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<td>January 15</td>
<td>Cultural Arts Showcase Submissions Due</td>
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<td>March 25-28</td>
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