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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/](https://kern.org/student-events/)
Letter to Parents

September 2022

Dear Parent:

We are thrilled that your child will participate 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 21 competitive student events. Talk to your child and select events that are appropriate for them and that fit into your schedule. 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. Often, we learn more and develop stronger character when life does not go how we expect. Thank you for supporting your child in their academic pursuits. We wish you both a year full of rich experiences through competition. 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 should have FUN when competing.
- Teachers, parents, and students should demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. Teacher 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 Events

Academic Decathlon Coaches Meeting
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
Thursday, September 8, 2022 • 3:30 p.m. • Zoom Meeting • https://kcsos.zoom.us/j/3841078152

Academic Decathlon Online Essay
Tuesday, December 13, 2022 • Virtual Competition • Link will be provided prior to event

Academic Decathlon Interview Day
Wednesday, January 25, 2023 • Virtual Competition • Link will be provided prior to event

Academic Decathlon Online Objective Testing
February 1 & 2, 2023 • Virtual Competition • Link will be provided prior to event

Academic Decathlon Speech & Super Quiz
Saturday, February 4, 2023 • Stockdale High School, Bakersfield

Coordinator: Jessica Means, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4230 or jemeans@kern.org

Cost: $750 per team

Registration: http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-221352

For more information regarding Academic Decathlon, contact:
Christine Goedhart-Humphrey
Instructional Services Program Support Coordinator
(661) 636-4330 or chhumphrey@kern.org
AVID Events

AVID – Elementary Student Write-Off
Grades 3-6

The AVID – Elementary Student Write-Off is a writing assignment designed to reflect on student growth in writing and metacognitive reflection of WICOR strategies. Elementary schools that are in the Kern County AVID Consortium are eligible to participate. Electronic participation packets will be sent to eligible schools.

Submission deadline: Friday, May 5, 2023 • CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor — 1300 17th Street, Bakersfield
Coordinator: Gena Lieske, AVID Program Manager at (661) 636-4563 or gelieske@kern.org

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Middle School Portfolio Challenge
Grades 6-8

The AVID Middle School Portfolio Challenge is a portfolio reflection of student growth demonstrated by academic artifacts. Middle schools that are in the Kern County AVID Consortium are eligible to participate. Electronic participation packets will be sent to eligible schools.

Submission deadline: Friday, May 5, 2023 • CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor — 1300 17th Street, Bakersfield
Coordinator: Gena Lieske, AVID Program Manager at (661) 636-4563 or gelieske@kern.org

For more information regarding AVID Events, contact: Gena Lieske, AVID Program Manager at (661) 636-4563 or gelieske@kern.org
English Language Arts Events

Bank of America Essay/Speech Contest
Grades 4-6

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. Topic and scoring guidelines can be found at [http://ci.kern.org/StudentEvents/english](http://ci.kern.org/StudentEvents/english).

**Essays Due:** Friday, April 7, 2023

**Speech Competition:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 • 6:30 p.m. • Larry E Reider Education Center — 2000 K Street, Bakersfield

**Coordinator:** Jessica Means, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4230 or jemeans@kern.org

Henry Greve Speech Contest
Grades 7-8

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](http://ci.kern.org/StudentEvents/english).

**Regional Entry Deadline:** Friday, February 17, 2023

**Competition:** Thursday, March 30, 2023 • 6:30 p.m. • CITY CENTRE, Room 1B — 1300 17th Street, Bakersfield

**Coordinator:** Jessica Means, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4230 or jemeans@kern.org

Kern Battle of the Books
Grades 4-8

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). Schools register teams of 4th-6th grade students with the Kern Reading Association (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.

**Grades 4-6 Competition**

**School Team Registration Entry Deadline:** Friday, March 31, 2023

**Cost:** $40 per school • Checks made payable to Kern Battle of the Books

- 4-6 Central County Competition • Monday, May 1, 2023 • 8:30 a.m.
- 4-6 North County Competition • Tuesday, May 2, 2023 • 8:30 a.m.
- 4-6 South County Competition • Thursday, May 4, 2023 • 8:30 a.m.

Kern County Museum/Pioneer Village, Bakersfield

**Grades 6-8 Competition**

**School Team Registration Entry Deadline:** TBD

**Cost:** $40 per school • Checks made payable to Educational Services Foundation

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

**Coordinator:** Jessica Means, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4230 or jemeans@kern.org
Oral Language Festival

Grades 4-8

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.

Regional Entry Deadline: Friday, March 10, 2023

Competition Date: Saturday, April 22, 2023 • 8:30 a.m.-1:45 p.m. • Stonecreek Junior High, Bakersfield

Coordinator: Jessica Means, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4230 or jemeans@kern.org

Cost: $50 per entry

Registration: http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-222047

History/Social Science Events

Congressional Hearings (District & Regional)
“We the People... the Citizen and the Constitution”

Grades 11-12

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.

Congressional Hearings Teachers/Coaches Meeting: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 • 3:30 p.m.
Zoom Meeting • https://kcsos.zoom.us/j/3841078152

Registration Deadline/Intent to Participate Due: Wednesday, October 12, 2022

OMS Registration: http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-221595

Judge Recruitment Due: Wednesday, October 12, 2022

Competition Date: Saturday, December 3, 2022 • Golden Valley High School, 801 Hosking Avenue, Bakersfield

Coordinator: Jessica Means, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4230 or jemeans@kern.org

Cost: $600 per team

Registration: http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-221595

For more information regarding English Language Arts Events, contact:
Jessica Means
Instructional Service Support
(661) 636-4230 or jemeans@kern.org
**History Day**

Grades 4-12

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 Day Teachers/Coaches Meeting:** Tuesday, October 4, 2022 • 3:30 p.m. • Zoom Meeting • [https://kcsos.zoom.us/j/3841078152](https://kcsos.zoom.us/j/3841078152)

**Intent to Participate Registration:** Friday, October 7, 2022

**Registration:** [http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-222052](http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-222052)

**Registration Deadline:** Monday, January 23, 2023

**Websites locked for judging:** Friday, February 10, 2023

**Historical Papers Due:** Friday, February 10, 2023

**Competition Day:** Saturday, March 4, 2023 • Larry E Reider Education Center — 2000 K Street, Bakersfield

**Coordinator:** Jessica Means, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4230 or jemeans@kern.org

**Cost:** $50 per student

**Registration:** [http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-222052](http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-222052)

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**Mock Trial Competition**

Grades 9-12

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.

**Mock Trial Teachers/Coaches Meeting:** Tuesday, September 27, 2022 • 3:30 p.m. • Zoom Meeting • [https://kcsos.zoom.us/j/3841078152](https://kcsos.zoom.us/j/3841078152)

**Registration Deadline:** Friday, September 27, 2022

**OMS Registration:** [http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-222056](http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-222056)

**Competition Dates:** Saturday, January 28, 2023 • Super Saturday & Awards Ceremony

- Kern County Superior Courts
- Wednesday, December 7, 2022 • Kern County Regional Round 1
- Wednesday, January 11, 2023 • Kern County Regional Round 2
- Wednesday, January 18, 2023 • Kern County Regional Round 3

**Coordinator:** Jessica Means, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4230 or jemeans@kern.org

**Cost:** $750 per team

**Registration:** [http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-222056](http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-222056)
Open Doors to Federal Court

Grades 11-12

High school seniors and their teachers are invited to “Open Doors to Federal Courts,” a nationwide educational initiative. Students will take part 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.

**Date:** Wednesday, February TBA • TBA, Bakersfield

**Coordinator:** Jessica Means, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4230 or jemeans@kern.org

Kern County College Night

Grades 11-12

The Kern County Superintendent of Schools office, in conjunction with the Kern High School District, annually hosts the annual Kern County College Night at the Rabobank Convention Center. The annual event attracts thousands of students and parents to explore higher education options. The free event is sponsored by our educational partners.

**Date:** Monday, September 12, 2022 • Mechanics Bank Convention Center

**Coordinator:** Jessica Means, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4230 or jemeans@kern.org

Leaders in Life Youth Conference

Grades 6-12

The Leaders in Life Youth Conference has a diverse group of students on a planning committee who are empowered by their goal to give all youth a voice by providing meaningful student leadership opportunities and skill-building. We have adults who are engaged, supportive members. The conference participants are educated and enlightened on issues that are important to them so that they can make healthy and informed decisions about drug and alcohol abuse, future career exploration, and youth advocacy; and they are motivated to help others make positive decisions. Through every aspect of planning the Leaders in Life Youth Conference, every student value the diversity of their school and community and is empowered to create their future.

**Date:** Thursday, March 9, 2023 • 8:00 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

**Coordinator:** Jessica Means, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4230 or jemeans@kern.org

**Cost:** $20 per person

For more information regarding History Social Science Events, contact:

**Jessica Means**
Instructional Service Support
(661) 636-4230 or jemeans@kern.org
STEM Events

Kern Codes
Grades 6-12

Kern Codes is a Hybrid computer programming event to introduce student participants to coding. Through competing in Kern Codes, students apply what they know about programming and show off their creativity. The event hopes to expose students to diverse job markets, promote hands-on learning experiences, and enhance problem-solving skills.

Teacher/Coach Meeting: TBD • via Zoom
Competition Date: Saturday, May 6, 2023
Coordinator: Zach Safi, Science Coordinator at (661) 636-4640 or zpsafi@kern.org
Cost: $15 per student
Registration: https://kern.k12oms.org/1513-222844

Kern County Science Fair
Grades 4-12

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.

Mandatory Kern County Science Fair Teachers/Coaches Meeting:
Teacher/Coaches please attend the following:
Tuesday, September 20, 2022 • 4:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting • https://kcsos.zoom.us/j/9455219607?from=addon

School Intent to Participate and Restricted Project deadline: Monday, December 12, 2022
Deadline for all projects: Friday, January 20, 2023
Project Setup: Monday, March 13, 2023 at Mechanics Bank Convention Center
Project Judging and Awards: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at Mechanics Bank Convention Center
Coordinator: Michelle Roy, Science Coordinator at (661) 636-4640 or miray@kern.org
Cost: $15 per student
Registration: TBA
STEM Olympiad

Grades 4-8

The STEM Olympiad Tournament is an opportunity for students to work together in teams to compete in approximately 15 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, mathematics, and technology.

STEM Olympiad Teachers/Coaches Meeting: Thursday, November 10, 2022 • Via Zoom
School Intent to Participate deadline: Friday, March 17, 2023
School Entries/Fees deadline: Friday, April 14, 2023
Competition Date: Saturday, May 6, 2023 • Liberty High School, Bakersfield
Coordinator: Marylou Long at (661) 636-4334 or malong@kern.org
Cost: $15 per student for team with more than 10 students. $150.00 flat fee for 10 or fewer students
Registration: https://tinyurl.com/KCSTEMOLY

For more information regarding STEM Events, contact: Marylou Long, at (661) 636-4334 or malong@kern.org
Visual/Performing Arts Events

**Cultural Art Showcase**

Preschool through Grade 12

The Kern County Superintendent of School Office would like to highlight 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 sent to the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office on or before January 13, 2023, to Jessica Means, at jemeans@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 Jessica Means, at jemeans@kern.org.

**Deadline for all art submissions electronically with descriptions:** Friday, January 13, 2023

**Virtual Display:** February 2023

**Coordinator(s):** Jessica Means, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4230 or jemeans@kern.org

**Grand Night for Music**

Grades 9-12

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.

**Date:** Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. • Mechanics Bank Convention Center

**Coordinator:** Jessica Means, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4230 or jemeans@kern.org
Honor Music Festival
Grades 6-8

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.

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. • Mechanics Bank Convention Center
Coordinator: Jessica Means, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4230 or jemeans@kern.org

Nutcracker Concerts
Grades K-8

Nutcracker Concerts are presented by the Civic Dance Center.

Date: Thursday, December 8, 2022 • 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. • Mechanics Bank Convention Center
Date: Friday, December 9, 2022 • 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. • Mechanics Bank Convention Center
Coordinator: For reservations, please contact the Erica Ueberroth with Bakersfield City Ballet, at (661) 364-8504 or ericnu@bakersfieldcityballet.org.

Young People’s Concerts
Grades K-8

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

Date: Thursday, February 2, 2023 • Mechanics Bank Convention Center
Date: Friday, February 3, 2023 • Mechanics Bank Convention Center
Coordinator: Kendra Green, Director of Artistic Administration, at (661) 323-7928 or kendra@bsonow.org
Cost: $6 per person
Registration: BSONow.org

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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