

2023-2024

Student Events



Table of Contents

- 1 District/School Responsibilities
- 1 Questions?
- 2 Letter to Parents
- 3 Student Event Etiquette
- 4 Academic Decathlon Events
- 5 AVID Events
 - 5 AVID – ELEMENTARY STUDENT WRITE-OFF
 - 5 AVID (ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION)MIDDLE SCHOOL PORTFOLIO CHALLENGE
- 6 English Language Arts Events
 - 6 BANK OF AMERICA ESSAY/SPEECH CONTEST
 - 6 HENRY GREVE SPEECH CONTEST
 - 6 ORAL LANGUAGE FESTIVAL
- 7 History/Social Science Events
 - 7 CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS (DISTRICT & REGIONAL)"WE THE PEOPLE... THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION"
 - 8 HISTORY DAY
 - 8 MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION
 - 9 OPEN DOORS TO FEDERAL COURT
 - 9 KERN COUNTY COLLEGE NIGHT
 - 9 LEADERS IN LIFE YOUTH CONFERENCE
- 10 STEM Events
 - 10 KERN CODES
 - 10 KERN COUNTY SCIENCE FAIR
 - 11 STEM OLYMPIAD
- 12 Visual/Performing Arts Events
 - 12 GRAND NIGHT FOR MUSIC
 - 13 HONOR MUSIC FESTIVAL
 - 13 NUTCRACKER CONCERTS
 - 13 YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERTS
 - 13 BSO NEXT: INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION
- 14 2022-23 Chronological List of Events



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

September 2023

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 or 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, August 31, 2023 • 3:30 p.m. • Zoom Meeting • <https://kcsos.zoom.us/j/3841078152>

Academic Decathlon Online Essay

Thursday, December 7, 2023 • Virtual Competition • Link will be provided prior to event

Academic Decathlon Interview Day

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 • Virtual Competition • Link will be provided prior to event

Academic Decathlon Online Objective Testing

January 31 & February 1, 2024 • Virtual Competition • Link will be provided prior to event

Academic Decathlon Speech & Super Quiz

Saturday, February 3, 2024 • Stockdale High School, Bakersfield

Contact: Alicia Mil, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4573 or almil@kern.org

Cost: \$850 per team

Registration: <http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-237074>



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 10, 2024 • 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 10, 2024 • CITY CENTRE, 5th Floor – 1300 17th Street, Bakersfield

Coordinator: 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 <https://kern.org/student-events/english-language-arts/>.

Essays Due: Friday, April 5, 2024

Speech Competition: Thursday, May 2, 2024 • 6:30 p.m. • Larry E Reider Education Center – 2000 K Street, Bakersfield

Contact: Alicia Mil, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4573 or almil@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 <https://kern.org/student-events/english-language-arts/>.

Regional Entry Deadline: Friday, February 16, 2024

Competition: Thursday, March 21, 2024 • 6:30 p.m. • CITY CENTRE, Room 1A – 1300 17th Street, Bakersfield

Contact: Alicia Mil, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4573 or almil@kern.org

Registration: <http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-237126>

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 8, 2024

Competition Date: Saturday, April 27, 2024 • 8:30 a.m.-1:45 p.m. • Stonecreek Junior High, Bakersfield

Contact: Alicia Mil, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4573 or almil@kern.org

Cost: \$50 per entry

Registration: <http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-237128>

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 19, 2023 • 3:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting • <https://kcsos.zoom.us/j/3841078152>

Registration Deadline/Intent to Participate Due: Wednesday, October 11, 2023

OMS Registration: <http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-237132>

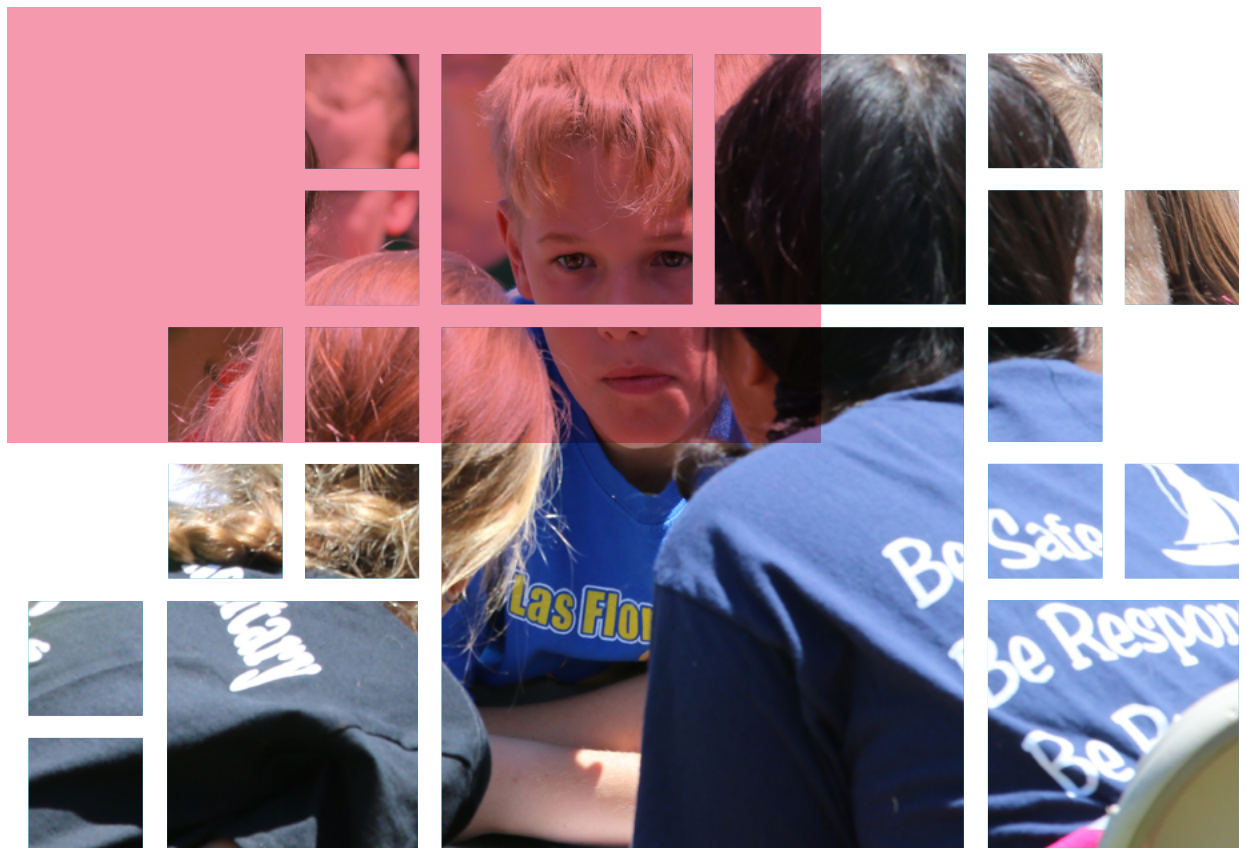
Judge Recruitment Due: Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Competition Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023 • Golden Valley High School, 801 Hosking Avenue, Bakersfield

Contact: Alicia Mil, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4573 or almil@kern.org

Cost: \$600 per team

Registration: <http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-237132>





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 3, 2023 • 3:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting • <https://kcsos.zoom.us/j/3841078152>

Intent to Participate Registration: Friday, October 6, 2023

Registration Deadline: Monday, January 22, 2024

Registration: <http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-237134>

Websites locked for judging: Friday, February 9, 2024

Historical Papers Due: Friday, February 9, 2024

Competition Day: Saturday, March 2, 2024 • Larry E Reider Education Center – 2000 K Street, Bakersfield

Contact: Alicia Mil, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4573 or almil@kern.org

Cost: \$50 per student

Registration: <http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-237134>

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 26, 2023 • 3:30 p.m. • Zoom Meeting • <https://kcsos.zoom.us/j/3841078152>

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, September 26, 2023

OMS Registration: <http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-237135>

Competition Dates: Saturday, January 27, 2024 • Super Saturday & Awards Ceremony

Kern County Superior Courts

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 • Kern County Regional Round 1

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 • Kern County Regional Round 2

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 • Kern County Regional Round 3

Contact: Alicia Mil, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4573 or almil@kern.org

Cost: \$750 per team

Registration: <http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-237135>

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

Contact: Alicia Mil, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4573 or almil@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 11, 2023 • Mechanics Bank Convention Center

Contact: Abby Smith, College & Career Program Support, at (661) 636-4232 or absmith@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 14, 2024 • 8:00 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

Contact: Alicia Mil, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4573 or almil@kern.org

Cost: \$25 per person

Registration: <http://kern.k12oms.org/1513-237137>





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, April 17, 2024

Coordinator: Zach Safi, Academic Technology Coordinator at (661) 636-4640 or zasafi@kern.org

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 19, 2023 • 4:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting • <https://kcsos.zoom.us/j/9455219607?from=addon>

School Intent to Participate and Restricted Project deadline: Monday, December 11, 2023

Deadline for all projects: Friday, January 26, 2024

Project Setup: Monday, March 11, 2024 at Mechanics Bank Convention Center

Project Judging and Awards: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at Mechanics Bank Convention Center

Coordinator: Michelle Roy, Science Coordinator at (661) 636-4640 or miroy@kern.org

Cost: \$15 per student

Registration: Online registration system will open in November 2023.

STEM Olympiad

Grades 4-8

At the STEM Olympiad, students will work together in teams of up to 6 to compete in 15 events. The events can change from year to year, covering fields and topics including math, science, engineering, and technology. Some events entail taking a test, while others involve doing hands-on labs, or even building and bringing a device to the tournament. STEM Olympiad events promote 21st Century skills that align with the California Math, Science and Technology standards, science and math literacy and to have fun.

STEM Olympiad Teachers/Coaches Meeting: Thursday, November 16, 2023

Zoom Link: <https://kcsos.zoom.us/j/9940212425?from=addon>

School Intent to Participate deadline: Friday, March 15, 2024

School Entries/Fees deadline: Friday, April 12, 2024

Competition Date: Saturday, May 4, 2024 • Liberty High School, Bakersfield

Coordinator: Marylou Long, STEAM Coordinator, 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>





Visual/Performing Arts Events

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 30, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. • Mechanics Bank Convention Center

Contact: Alicia Mil, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4573 or almil@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 27, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. • Mechanics Bank Convention Center

Contact: Alicia Mil, Instructional Service Support, at (661) 636-4573 or almil@kern.org

Nutcracker Concerts

Grades K-8

Nutcracker Concerts are presented by the Civic Dance Center.

Date: Thursday, December 7, 2023 • 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. • Mechanics Bank Convention Center

Date: Friday, December 8, 2023 • 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. • Mechanics Bank Convention Center

Contact: For reservations, please contact the Erica Ueberroth with Bakersfield City Ballet, at (661) 364-8504 or ericau@bakersfieldcityballet.org.

Registration: [Download 2023-24 Reservation Form](#)

Young People's Concerts

Grades K-8

Young People's Concerts are presented by the Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra. The Young People's Concerts have hosted 128,363 students since 2020.

Young People's Concerts are geared specifically toward elementary school students grades first through sixth and are attended by schools throughout the country. Programs are engaging and interactive, and the Symphony provides quality lesson plans that teachers can utilize in the weeks leading up to the performance.

Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024 • Mechanics Bank Convention Center

Date: Friday, February 9, 2024 • Mechanics Bank Convention Center

Contact: Natalia Perez, Education & Social Media Coordinator, at (661) 323-7928 or natalia@bsonow.org

Cost: \$6 per person

Registration: [BSONow.org/education](https://bsonow.org/education)

BSO Next: Inspiring the Next Generation

Grades 5-12

BSO Next brings students from across Kern County to symphony concerts. The goal of the program is to not only expose students to professional musical performance, but to inspire students with a broad view of art, culture, education, and their own untapped potential. This program includes access to interactive learning materials and an educational and engaging pre-concert lecture designed for students.

Date: October 7, 2023 • Mechanics Bank Convention Center

Date: November 4, 2023 • Mechanics Bank Convention Center

Date: March 2, 2024 • Mechanics Bank Convention Center

Date: May 4, 2024 • Mechanics Bank Convention Center

Contact: Natalia Perez, Education & Social Media Coordinator, at (661) 323-7928 or natalia@bsonow.org

Cost: Limited sponsored tickets available (Recommended: 1 chaperone per 10 students)

Registration: [BSONow.org/education](https://bsonow.org/education)



2023-24 Chronological List of Events

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
August 31	Academic Decathlon Coaching Meeting	Zoom Meeting
September 11	KC College Night	Mechanics Bank Convention Center
September 19	Congressional Hearings Coaches Orientation Meeting	Zoom Meeting
September 19	Science Fair Coaches Seminar	Zoom Meeting
September 26	Mock Trial Coaches Orientation Meeting	Zoom Meeting
October 3	History Day Coaches Orientation Meeting	Zoom Meeting
October 7	BSO Next: Inspiring the Next Generation	Mechanics Bank Convention Center
November 4	BSO Next: Inspiring the Next Generation	Mechanics Bank Convention Center
November 16	STEM Olympiad - Coaches Meeting	Zoom Meeting
December 2	Congressional Hearings (District & Regional)	Golden Valley High School
December 6	Mock Trial Round 1	Kern County Courts
December 7	Academic Decathlon Online Essay	Virtual
December 7-8	The Nutcracker Concerts	Mechanics Bank Convention Center
January 10, 2024	Mock Trial Round 2	Kern County Courts
January 17	Mock Trial Round 3	Kern County Courts
January 24	Academic Decathlon Interview	Virtual
January 27	Mock Trial Super Saturday & Awards Ceremony	Kern County Superior Court
January 30	Grand Night for Music	Mechanics Bank Convention Center
January 31	Academic Decathlon Online Objective Testing	Virtual
February 1	Academic Decathlon Online Objective Testing	Virtual
February 3	Academic Decathlon Super Quiz & Awards Ceremony	Stockdale High School
February 8-9	Young People's Concert	Mechanics Bank Convention Center
February 27	Honor Music Festival	Mechanics Bank Convention Center
February TBA	Open Doors to Federal Court	TBD
March 2	BSO Next: Inspiring the Next Generation	Mechanics Bank Convention Center
March 2	History Day	Larry E. Reider Educational Center
March 11	KC Regional Science Fair Setup	Mechanics Bank Convention Center
March 12	KC Regional Science Fair Judging and Awards	Mechanics Bank Convention Center
March 14	Leaders in Life	Mechanics Bank Convention Center
March 15	STEM Olympiad - Intent to Participate Deadline	
March 21	Henry Greve Speech Contest	Larry E. Reider Educational Center
March TBA	State Academic Decathlon	Virtual
April 12	STEM Olympiad - School Entries/Fees Deadline	
April 17	Kern Codes	Zoom Meeting
April 27	Oral Language Festival	Stonecreek Junior High
April TBA	National Academic Decathlon	TBD
April TBA	State History Day	Sacramento, CA
May 2	Bank of America Speech/Essay Contest	Larry E. Reider Educational Center
May 4	BSO Next: Inspiring the Next Generation	Mechanics Bank Convention Center
May 4	STEM Olympiad - Competition	Liberty High School
May 10	AVID Middle School Portfolio Challenge	5th Floor, City Centre
May 10	AVID - Elementary Student Write-Off	5th Floor, City Centre
May TBA	International Science & Engineering Fair	Dallas, Texas
June TBA	National History Day	University of Maryland