

UIL Competition Prepare Students For The Future!

Preparation for College:

Competition develops higher-level thinking, organization of thoughts and information and effective communication with others.

Training for Careers:

Numerous studies have shown that students who are involved in extracurricular activities have higher job success.

Life Skills:

Participation in extracurricular activities builds a strong foundation for life-long learning and the development of social skills.

Confidence:

Involvement in academic contests builds poise and assurance, as well as the ability to handle stressful situations.

FUN:

Competition allows students to interact with others, establish lasting friendships and enjoy the thrill of learning.

Some important information:

- Please note that in order to participate in any UIL event the student must be passing each course at the end of the six weeks prior to competition.
- Students must also be present at school on the day of the competition.
- UIL Attendance and performance at practices determine which students will represent our school at the district meet in February.

The Road Less Travelled!



***For more information,
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**University
Interscholastic
League**

ACADEMICS



***T.A. Howard Middle
School***

Middle School Academic Events

The University Interscholastic League offers the most comprehensive literary and academic competition in the nation. The program provides more than any other UIL division in terms of activities. More than half a million students participate in UIL academic events each year.

These activities, which exist to complement the academic curriculum, are designed to motivate students as they acquire higher levels of knowledge to encourage students to confront issues of importance, and provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate the mastery of specific skills. Students are challenged to think critically, exhibiting much more than knowledge and comprehension.

Art Smart: This contest involves the study of paintings from the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and paintings or pictures from selected Texas museums. Part A of the contest requires the contestant to identify the names of 15 selected artists and titles of pictures selected randomly by the director from the official list of 40 pictures. Part B consists of 30 questions about art history and art elements characteristic of the 40 art selections.

Calculator Applications The calculator applications contest involves students taking a test containing 80 problems in 30 minutes. The contest consists of problems which may include calculations involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, roots, and powers. It also includes straight-forward calculation problems, and simple geometric and stated problems similar to those found in recently adopted textbooks.

Chess Puzzle Chess puzzle competition is very different from tournament chess play. Contestants in a chess puzzle contest receive a paper-and-pencil test that includes a series of chess boards with pieces in particular positions. Questions are based on analysis of material or possible moves in each given diagram.

Dictionary Skills Each Dictionary Skills test consists of 40 objective and short answer questions to be completed in 20 minutes. Contestants use dictionaries during the competition, which may be tabbed. Contest questions cover word origins and histories, parts of speech, pronunciation, variant spellings, plurals, alphabetizing and other such elements. Test questions are also taken from charts, tables and lists contained in the dictionary.

Editorial Writing The Editorial Writing Contest is designed to develop the persuasive writing skills of the participants. Students must advocate a specific point-of-view in response to a prompt. Sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students have 45 minutes in which to complete their editorials.

Impromptu Speaking In Impromptu Speaking, contestants will draw three topics and have three minutes to prepare a speech, which must be presented without any notes. The contest gives participants experience in thinking, organizing, formulating clear thoughts, and delivering those thoughts to an audience effectively.

Listening In Listening Skills, contestants will listen to a script ranging from seven to ten minutes in length, take notes as needed, and use their notes to answer 25 multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions.

Maps, Charts and Graphs This contest is designed to help students learn to get information from a variety of maps, graphs and charts. They will have 45 minutes to answer 75 questions.

Mathematics This contest includes 50 problems covering, but not limited to: numeration systems, arithmetic operations involving whole numbers, integers, fractions, decimals, exponents, order of operations, probability, statistics, number theory, simple interest, measurements and conversions. Geometry and algebra problems may be included as appropriate for the grade level.

Modern Oratory In Modern Oratory, contestants will select one of the topics, determine the critical issues in the topic, and acknowledge both pro and con points citing support discovered in their research. Students will choose a side they will defend and support that side with additional evidence. Along with the skills of analysis, research, note-taking, documentation, evaluation and decision-making come those of delivery and the skill of memorization.

Music Memory The focus of the Music Memory contest is an in-depth study of fine pieces of music literature taken from a wide spectrum of music genres to expose students to great composers, their lives and their music. Students will listen to approximately 20 seconds of up to 20 musical selections and identify the name of the major work, selection and the name of the composer. To receive full credit for an answer, all information about the music selection must be complete as shown on the official list. Spelling and punctuation are considered in the grading of this contest.

Number Sense In the Number Sense contest, students will be given a 10-minute, fill-in-the-blank test which they must complete without doing calculations on paper or on a calculator. Concepts covered include, but are not limited to: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, proportions, and use of mathematic notation. Erasures and mark-outs are not permitted.

Oral Reading Reading literature out loud provides opportunities for students to analyze the text, to grow and to develop as a performer, to communicate a message to an audience and to perform an artistic creation. The oral reading competition should be an extension of the classroom literary and language arts activities in poetry, short stories and children's fiction. Students in grades 7, 8, and 9 read selections of prose or poetry.

Ready Writing Ready Writing builds upon those writing skills learned in school and helps students refine their writing abilities. In particular, this contest helps them to learn to write clearly and correctly a paper that is interesting and original. Contestants are given a choice between two prompts which defines the audience and provides the purpose for writing. Students should be encouraged to analyze the prompts for the purpose of writing, the format, the audience and the point of view. There is no minimum or maximum number of words the contestants must write.

Science Emphasis for the Science contest will be placed on knowledge of scientific fact, understanding of scientific principles and the ability to think through scientific problems. Each test will consist of approximately 35 multiple choice questions which will be taken from current state-adopted science textbooks and the curriculum.

Social Studies The Social Studies test is based on the TEKS for Social Studies. This contest is a 30 minute test with 40 questions. Test topics are defined by a study outline, that is updated annually and test content taken from state adopted textbooks and identified primary sources.

Spelling The spelling contest is designed to give students exposure to a wide variety of vocabulary words. It is not a contest of memorization. Not only will students learn to spell proficiently, contestants will learn to write clearly and to capitalize words properly. Students will write down words given by the pronouncer on their paper at a rate of approximately five words per minute. The tiebreaker is given to all contestants immediately following the initial test.