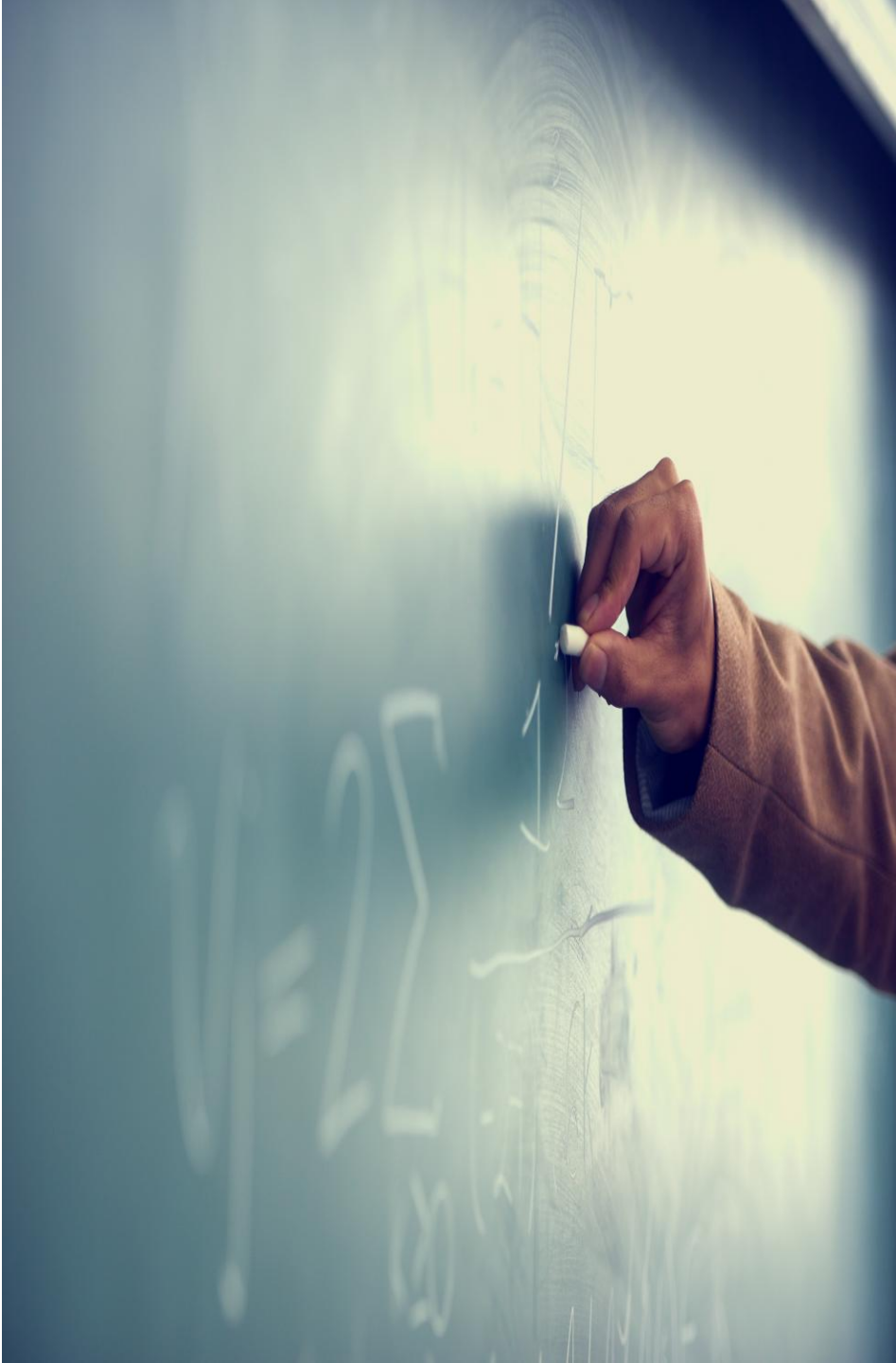


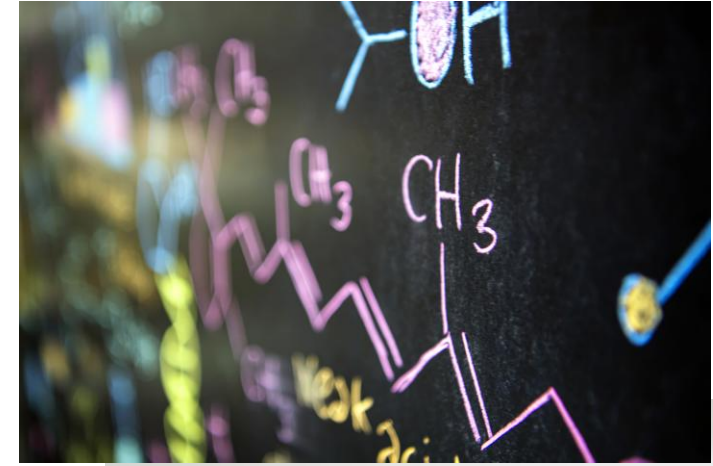
TCSAAL Academic & Arts
Activities

An overview of TCSAAL
Academic & Arts Activities



Academic & Arts Activities

- Chess
- Spelling Bee
- Math
- Science
- Arts Festival



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Why does being involved in extracurriculars matter?

- "If you want to improve a child's odds of graduation and going to college encourage and engage them in extracurricular activities," -Dr. Jason M. Smith, Professor of sociology at The University of Alabama in Huntsville
- Consistent research data over the last 30 or so years shows that involvement in extracurricular activities helps in lowering the high school dropout rate, raises grades and gives students better odds of graduating from high school and attending college.
- Analysis of over 12,000 high school students showed: Across the board high school graduation rates and rates of attendance in postsecondary education are higher for those who participated in extracurricular activities than for those who do not participate at all.

Chess Competition Overview

11/18/25 – 12/13/25

- The TCSAAL Chess Competition is a team competition. Teams are made up of 4 individuals per team. TCSAAL offers chess competitions in 3 different age groups: 4th – 6th Grade (regional only), 6th – 8th Grade (regional/state) and High School (regional/state).
- Each team will participate in a Regional Competition. The top 4 teams in each Regional Competition in 6th-8th Grade and High School groupings will advance to the State Competition.
- Teams participate in four (4) 30-minute games at each competition (5 games at State Level).
- The tournament is conducted in the Swiss Tournament Style.



Spelling Bee Overview

11/17/25 – 12/13/25

Overview

- The TCSAAL Spelling Bee is an individual competition. TCSAAL offers the Spelling Bee Competition in the 6th–8th Grade age grouping. Students in lower grade levels are eligible to participate. High School students are not eligible to participate.
- Each individual will participate in a Regional Competition.
- The top 10 finishers from each regional qualifier will advance to State. Individuals must participate in a qualifier to be eligible for State.

Awards

- The top 10 participants from each Regional competition will receive a certificate of recognition and advance to the State competition.
- The top 3 participants at the State competition will receive medals for 1st , 2nd , and 3rd Place. School awards for the top 3 participants will receive plaques.

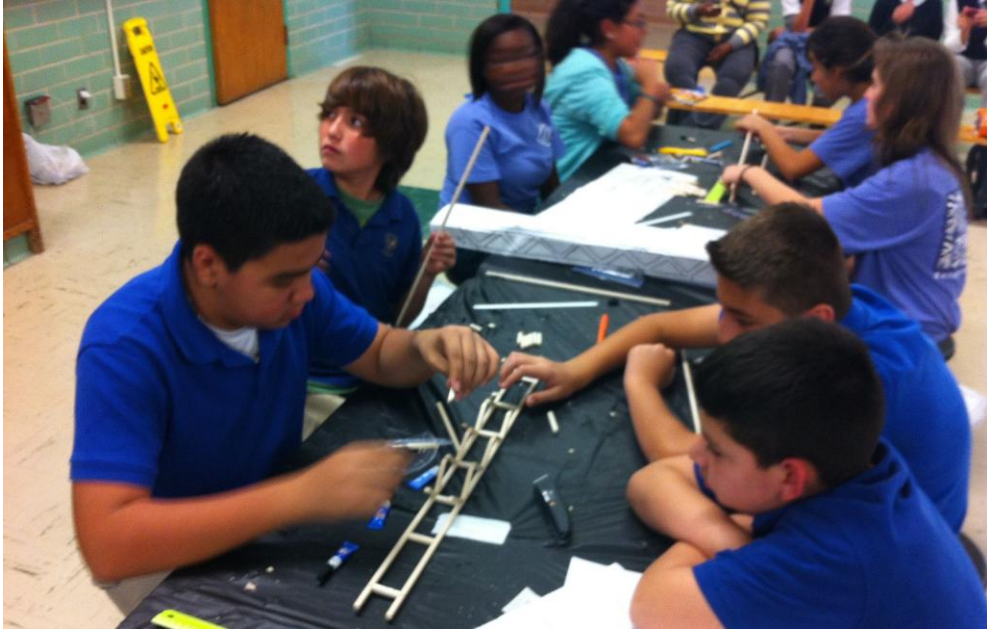


Team Math Competition Overview

1/7/26 – 1/24/26

- The TCSAAL Team Math Competition is a team competition. Teams are made up of up to 4 individuals per team. TCSAAL offers our Math competition in 2 Age-Groupings: 6th-8th Grade and High School. There is not a 4th-6th Grade grouping.
- Questions mainly based on STAAR content but can include other content as well.
- Each team will participate in a regional competition prior to State. The top 4 teams in each regional in each age group will advance to the state competition.
- The competition consists of multiple rounds, which include individual testing and team answer (and a *Lightning Round* will be conducted at the State Level).





Team Science Overview

1/24/26

- The TCSAAL Team Science Competition is a team competition. Teams are made up of up to 4 individuals per team. TCSAAL offers Science competition in 2 different age groups: 6th-8th Grade and High School.
- Teams will compete exclusively at the state level. There are no Regional-Level Team Science Competitions.
- The competition consists of multiple hands-on science projects.
- Including Balsa Bridge Building, Mouse Trap Car Racing, & Ball Run competition.

Arts Festival

2/28/26

Visual Arts

- Drawing: Black & White
- Drawing: Color
- Painting
- 3-Dimensional Artwork
- Communicational Design
- Photography
- Mixed-Media
- On-Site Drawing

Creative Writing

Performing Arts

- Monologue Interpretation
- Duet Acting

Choir

- Solo Choir
- Duet Choir
- Small Group Choir
- Large Group Choir

Music

- Small Instrumental Group
- Solo Guitar
- Solo Piano



Visual Arts Activities

- The TCSAAL Arts Festival offers visual arts competitions in which students design and prepare a work of art consisting of a singular visual medium.
- Entries are created prior to the competition, and students do not need to be present in order to compete! School representative will be responsible for bringing the pieces to the competition, placing the pieces, and picking them up at the conclusion of the competition.
- Drawing: Black & White – An illustration using only monochromatic tones
- Drawing: Color – An illustration using drawing and colored pencils unlimited by color spectrum
- Painting – An illustration using paints
- 3-Dimensional Artwork – Sculpture, collage, and other 3-dimensional creations
- Communicational Design – Graphic design & digital media
- Photography – Aesthetic film captures through a telescoping lens
- Mixed-Media – Works combining two or more types of media





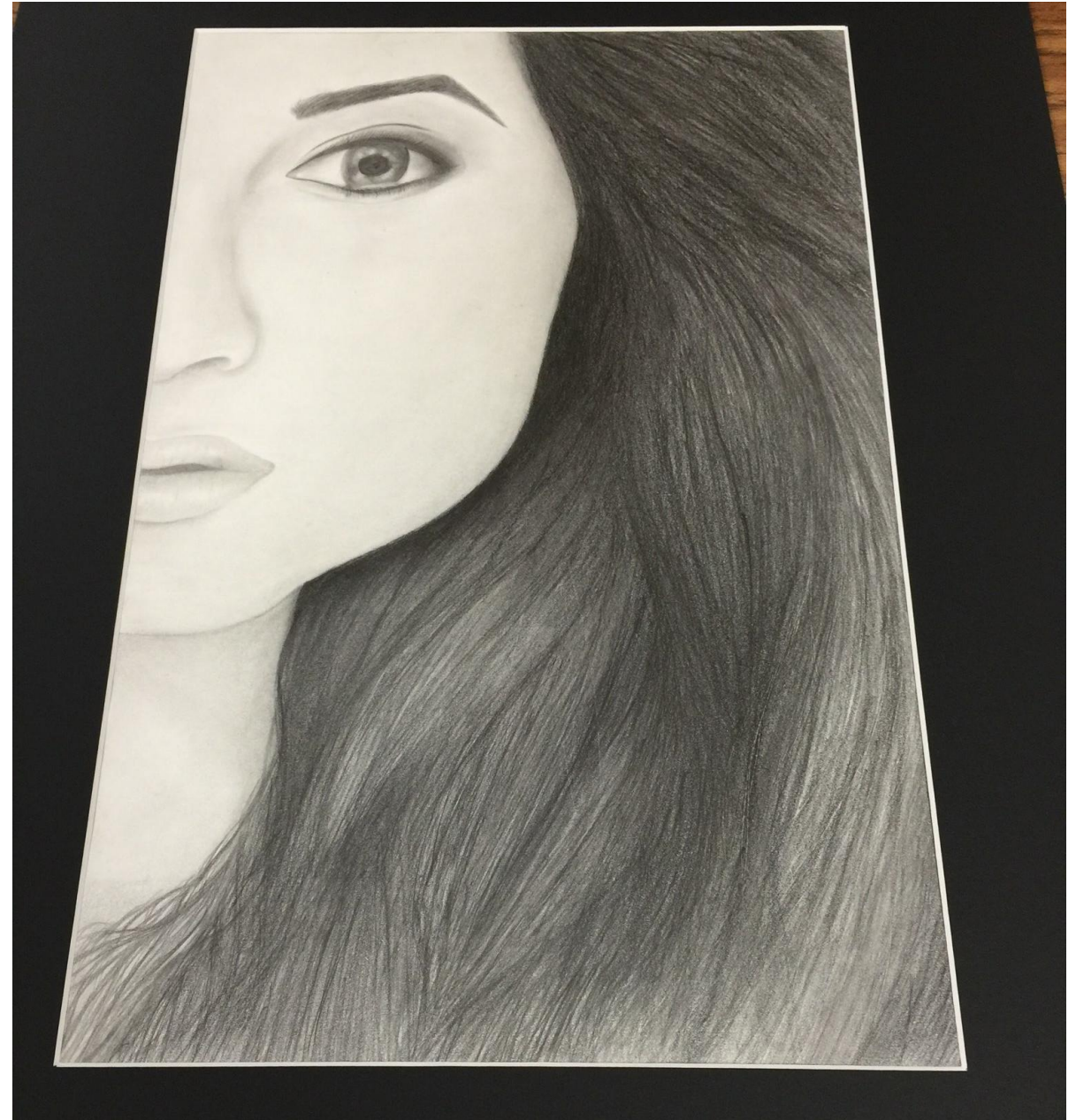
On-Site Drawing

Offered in both 6th – 8th Grade and High School age groupings.

Students will participate in an onsite timed drawing competition. Each student will receive one white piece of 11" x 14" drawing paper.

Students will be required to provide their own drawing supplies that are within the same limitations as Drawing – Black and White.

Suggested mediums include, but are not limited to: charcoal, black ballpoint pens, calligraphy pens, pastels (black or white), black and white scratchboard, and graphite. Contestants will be put in a room and given 45 minutes to draw the same item. Pieces will be judged and the top 3 finishers will receive medals.



Performing Arts Activities



Drama

- Monologue Interpretation Humorous / Dramatic
- Duet Acting Humorous / Dramatic

Choir

- Solo Choir (piece chosen from PML)
- Duet Choir (piece chosen from PML)
- Small & Large Choir (pieces chosen from PML)

Music

- Small Instrumental Group (piece chosen from PML)
- Solo Classical Guitar (piece chosen from PML)
 - No electric guitars allowed
- Solo Piano (piece chosen from PML)

Monologue Interpretation



- Offered to 6th-8th and 9th-12th Grade Age-Groupings
- Individual performance of a memorized, published selection or cutting of literature with verifiable ISBN
- Performance is exclusive of props, directional blocking, costume, and script
- Participants must complete their performance within the maximum allotted performance time: 5 minutes for 6th-8th Grade, and 8 minutes for 9th-12th Grade
- Competition is divided into humorous and dramatic performance categories; competitive student-speakers are encouraged to enter into both

Duet Acting

- Offered to 6th-8th and 9th-12th Grade Age-Groupings
- Individual performance of a memorized, published selection or cutting of literature with verifiable ISBN
- Performances are provided 2 chairs – similar to traditional, cafeteria-style chairs – for their performance
- Performance is otherwise exclusive of props, costume, and script
- Participants must complete their performance within the maximum allotted performance time: 8 minutes for 6th-8th Grade, and 10 minutes for 9th-12th Grade



Choir Overview

Solo Choir

Must be a selection from the TCSAAL Prescribed Music List

Duet Choir

Must be a selection from the TCSAAL Prescribed Music List

Small Group Choir

10 or less students

Must be a selection from the TCSAAL Prescribed Music List

Large Group Choir

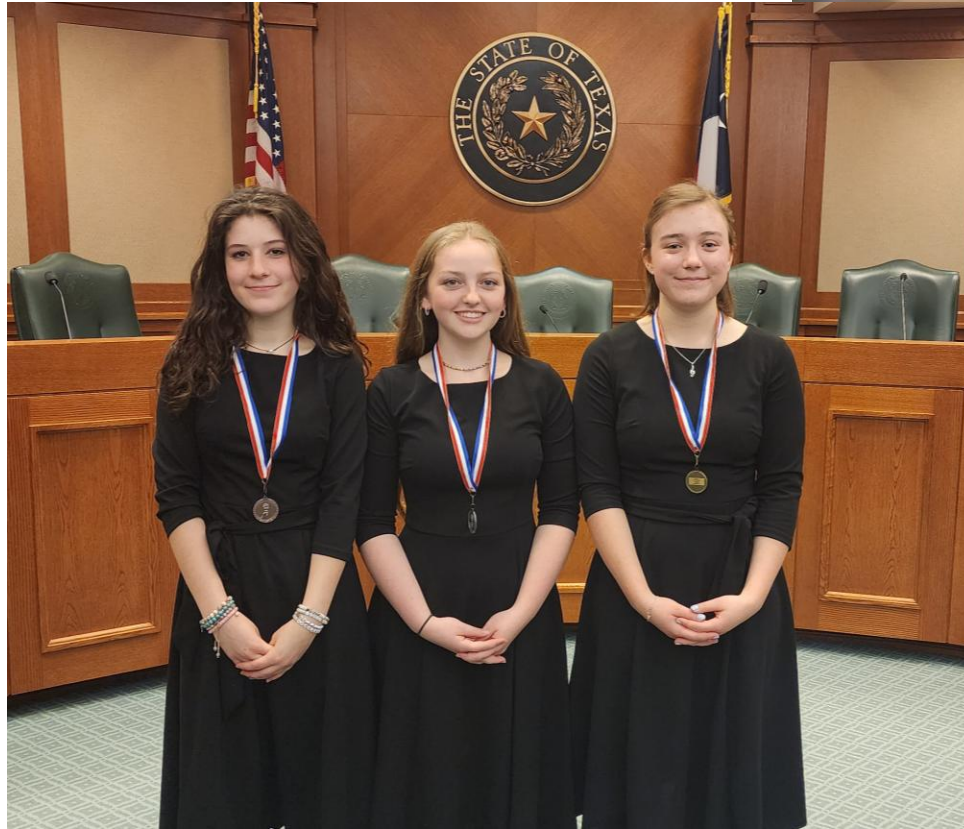
11 – 30 students

Must be a selection from the TCSAAL Prescribed Music List



Music Overview

- Small Instrumental Group - 2-6 performers
 - Selections from the TCSAAL Prescribed Music List only
- Solo Classical Guitar
 - No electric guitar
 - Selections from the TCSAAL Prescribed Music List only
- Solo Piano
 - Selections from the TCSAAL Prescribed Music List only



Creative Writing

The judges are seeking exceptional short fiction that contains no more than 1000 words (750 words for 4th – 6th grade). Young authors can submit fiction stories based on any school appropriate theme or in any genre that showcase the author's skills to tell an engaging story. Entries are submitted via email to academics@texascharter.org for the judge to review.

Age Groupings

The Creative Writing Competition will be offered in 3 different age groupings:

4th – 6th Grade, 6th – 8th Grade, and High School

Guidelines

- Essays cannot exceed 1,000 words (750 words for 4th – 6th grade).
- Essays must be original work of the student from this school year.



What Changes Can be Expected for the 25-26 Arts Festival?

In an effort to promote a more level playing field in terms of the music competitions, we will be looking at including more evaluation for musical complexity, ambition, difficulty, etc. This is to help with the judges being able to judge all of the entries as fairly as possible. We have received feedback from the judges that we need to incorporate more complexity into the entries in order to judge everything fairly and we will also be incorporating this into the scoring rubrics to reflect any specific changes we make. We may look to incorporate similar changes to Drama as well, but this has not been decided as of yet.

Music Cuttings

Cuttings must be submitted to TCSAAL prior to the Arts Festival. In addition, coaches should bring cutting copies for the judge and TCSAAL.

Acapella Music

If students are going to sing without accompaniment, they should be choosing repertoire specifically written to be performed acapella. Students should not perform accompanied pieces acapella unless the arrangement specifically supports that. This is for the benefit of the students, as well as the judges.

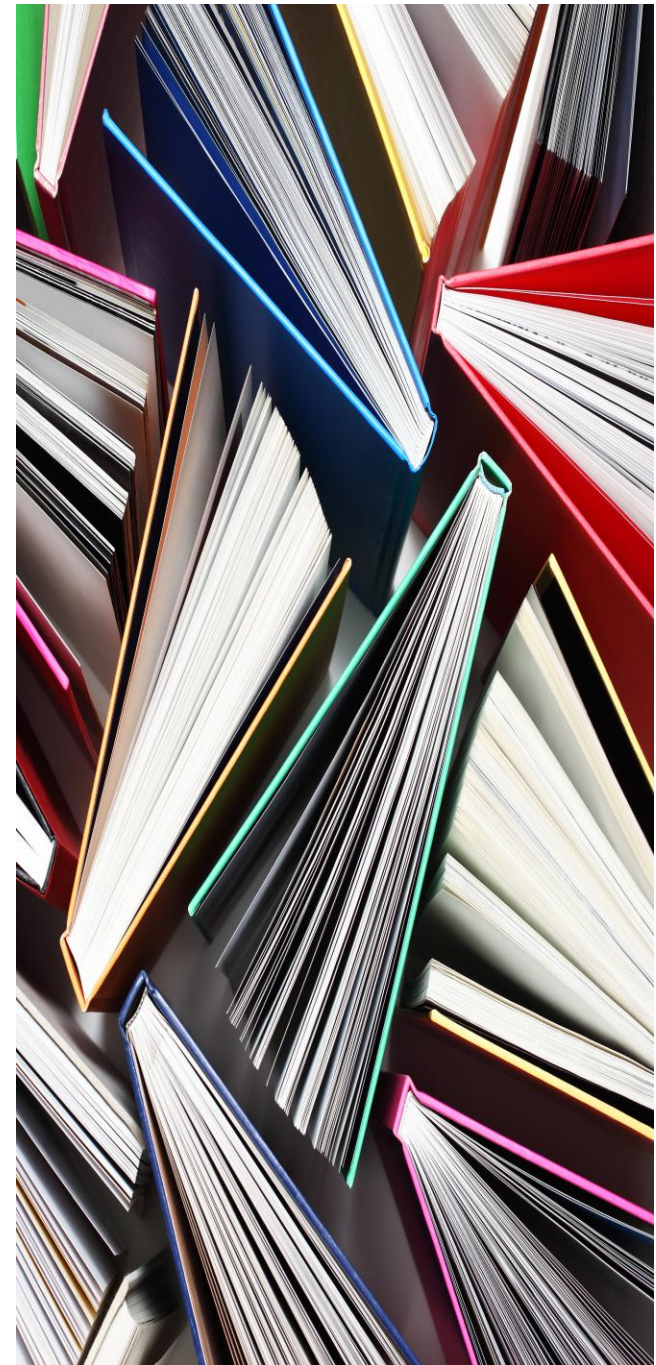
Technical Requirements with Accompaniment

TCSAAL will clarify acceptable file formats that will be able to be used for accompaniment. Entries that do not meet the requirements will not be able to be used.



Academic, Arts and Esports Competitions Structure

- **Math Olympiad/Chess/Spelling Bee**
 - Teams/Individuals will participate in a Regional Qualifier and those that qualify will advance to the State Competition. See event rules for qualifying criteria.
- **All Other Academic & Arts Competition**
 - Currently, teams will participate directly in the State Round. Please note that as an activity grows, we will add Regional Qualifiers as necessary.
- **State Advancement**
 - See the individual activities rules.
- **ESports**
 - TCSAAL will be participating with PlayVS. We will follow their outlined structure. See our website for more information.



Is My Campus Participating in Academics Already?

Academy of Accelerated Learning - Belfort	IDEA Edgemere College Preparatory
Academy of Accelerated Learning - Savoy	IDEA Ewing Halsell College Preparatory
Academy of Accelerated Learning Ashcroft	IDEA Harvey E. Najim College Preparatory
Aristoi Classical Academy Cypress	IDEA Judson College Preparatory
Aristoi Classical Academy Katy	IDEA Los Encinos College Preparatory
BASIS Benbrook	IDEA McAllen College Preparatory
BASIS Cedar Park	IDEA Monterrey Park College Preparatory
BASIS San Antonio - Northeast Campus	IDEA North Mission College Preparatory
BASIS San Antonio Primary Medical Center Campus	IDEA Robindale College Preparatory
BASIS San Antonio Shavano	IDEA South Flores College Prep
Calvin Nelms Charter High School	IDEA Tres Lagos College Preparatory
Covenant Christian Academy	IDEA Yukon College Preparatory
Doral Academy of Texas	IL Texas Garland HS
El Paso Classical Academy	IL Texas Pearland MS
EPLA East High School	IL Texas Windmill Lakes Orem High School
EPLA East Middle School	Imagine International Academy of North Texas
Founders Classical Academy Carrollton	Jubilee San Antonio
Founders Classical Academy Lewisville	Kingsland School
Founders Classical Academy of Carrollton	KIPP Truth Academy
Founders Classical Academy of Schertz	La Academia de Estrellas Charter School
George Gervin Academy	Leadership Prep School
George I. Sanchez Charter South Campus	Lewisville School of Science & Technology
Golden Rule Schools - DeSoto Campus	Macedonian Christian Academy
Golden Rule Schools - Illinois Campus	Marine Military Academy
Great Hearts - Western Hills	Nova Academy Prichard
Great Hearts Academy - Lakeside	Pegasus Charter School of Liberal Arts & Science
Great Hearts Western Hills	Raven School
Griffin School	School of Science and Technology Champions College Prep HS
Harmony School of Discovery Houston	South Texas ISD Science Academy
Harmony School of Endeavor Austin	South TX ISD Health Professions
Harmony School of Excellence Dallas	SST Champions College Prep High School
Harmony School of Innovation El Paso Secondary	SST San Antonio College Prep
Harmony School of Innovation Garland	STISD South Texas Preparatory Academy
Harmony Science Academy Pflugerville	Temple Charter Academy
Harmony Science Academy San Antonio	Texas Empowerment Academy
Houston Gateway Academy	Uplift Williams Preparatory
IDEA Burke College Preparatory	Uplift Wisdom High School
IDEA Carver College Preparatory	Village Tech Odyssey High

Benefits of Getting Your Campus More Involved in Academics as Well as Athletics



Your membership base fee covers both academics & athletics. Similar to the other athletic activities, your school would only be responsible for paying the team fees.



Academic activities also count towards Texas Cup points!



State competition opportunities for all of the activities so that everyone can have similar experiences.



Regional competitions are hosted by TCSAAL member schools. You can use this to showcase your campus to the rest of your areas. Host campuses also will receive 1 team FREE of charge for the activity they are hosting (\$150 value).

Get your students involved!

