



SAINT ANDREW
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

We are very excited to announce that Saint Andrew Catholic School will begin participating this year in the Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA) extracurricular academic program for elementary and middle schools. Participating in PSIA provides an exciting opportunity for private school students to engage in academic competition with their peers throughout the state of Texas.

PSIA remains the most comprehensive academic extracurricular programs in the nation for students in grades 1-8. Through PSIA participation, your child will:

- Refine mental aptitudes
- Affirm self-worth
- Find new excitement in learning
- Develop teamwork and a sense of fair play
- Experience a sense of pride and dignity
- Appreciate that rules, consistently applied, create order and discipline
- Experience the joy of achieving in a wholesome environment
- Foster self-discipline and perseverance
- Achieve recognition for academic excellence
- Make better choices of after-school activities
- Enjoy camaraderie with students from other schools
- Receive tangible awards for his/her academic ability
- HAVE FUN!

Though PSIA offers 19 contest categories covering a broad range of disciplines in 59 academic contests and is open to students in grades 1-8, we hope to compete in 10 academic events and will offer the program to 2nd - 8th Grade students this year. As the program and interest grows at SAS, we will consider expanding the number of academic events and participating grade-levels next year.

Students may register to participate in one or more of these PSIA academic events/subjects:

- Creative Writing (open to 2nd grade students only)
- Impromptu Speaking (open to 7th & 8th grade students)
- Maps, Graphs, & Charts (open to 4th – 8th grade students)
- Mathematics (open to 2nd – 8th grade students)
- Music Memory (open to 3rd – 8th grade students)
- On-Site Drawing (open to 6th – 8th grade students)
- One-Act Play (open to 6th – 8th grade students)
- PROSE Interpretation (open to 4th – 8th grade students)
- Ready Writing (open to 3rd – 8th grade students)
- Spelling (open to 2nd – 8th grade students)

Here's How it Works

Students who are interested in participating in the program this year will work with an academic coach on their chosen event(s)/subject(s) for approximately 45 minutes after school each week/every other week leading up to the District and State competition meets that will be held in the spring. **Registering to participate in the program does not guarantee automatic participation in the District Meet in the spring. Approximately one month prior to the District Meet the academic coach will administer an assessment (to each student on the team) to determine the top three students in that event/subject who will represent SAS and compete in the District Meet. Since our academic coaches may select only a limited number of students (usually 3) from each grade to be entered at the district level in each event,** we encourage you to talk with your child about his/her true interest in participating in the program.

We have several teachers and a few parent volunteers who have committed to serving as academic coaches, working with students who register to participate in the program. **We would welcome other parent volunteers who wish to become involved in the PSIA program.**

Parent Commitment

Students whose parents invest time in helping them to prepare are the ones most likely to succeed at PSIA. For students who compete as part of our school team, **one parent per household will be required to fulfill a volunteer shift on the day of the PSIA District and State meets.** Volunteers serve as graders, assistant directors for contests, and general helpers to make the day go smoothly for all involved. Events will run in individual classrooms throughout the building during the day, with awards given in individual classrooms instead of at one ceremony. Because your volunteer shift may occur at the same time as one of your children's events, we strongly suggest that you bring two adults to the meet if you wish to be present when your child receives an award for a specific event. **PSIA guidelines require at least one parent or guardian be present on the day of the event for each competing child (or family, if more than one child from your household joins our school team).**

In general, three students per grade level may compete in an event. For some events, there is a limit of three students per combined grade levels; we would like to have at least two students from each grade level compete, but there are opportunities for many more than that to participate!

District Meet: Saturday, March 26, 2022, location TBD (for all event/subject competitions EXCEPT One-Act Plays)

District Meet for One-Act Play competition: Monday, February 21 and Wednesday, February 23, 2022; NCTC Performing Arts Center, Gainesville, TX

Students who rank first or second for their grade levels will be invited to represent SAS at the PSIA State Meet.

State Meet: Saturday, April 30, 2022, at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth (all event/subject competitions EXCEPT One-Act Plays)

State Meet for One-Act Play competition: Friday, April 1 & Saturday, April 2, 2022, at the NCTC Performing Arts Center, Gainesville, TX

PSIA Registration & Cost

The fee to participate is \$20 per event/subject. Fees for PSIA entries will be billed to your school FACTS account. Students may participate in more than one event/subject, however, please note that practice times may conflict as they are generally held during the week after school. **To register to participate in PSIA for the 2021-2022 school year, please complete the registration form [here](#) by Friday, November 12, 2021.**

For more information about the Private School Interscholastic Association, please visit <https://www.psiaacademics.org/info/>.

Blessings,

Laura Behee, M.Ed.
Principal