

Trumbull High debuts at US Academic Decathlon, takes third

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EE Staff Writer

Academic Decathlon is "the premier national scholastic competition for high school students." The competition is made up of a series of written and oral exams that test students' knowledge on a variety of different topics bound together by a common theme. This year's theme is the French Revolution. Teams are composed of nine students and are divided into three subgroups based on GPA. Each student competes in ten events; Essay, Language & Literature, Art, Music, Math, Science/Social Science, Economics, Speech, Interview, and the Superquiz. For each of the first nine subjects each student takes a written test. For the Superquiz each student takes a written test and an oral examination.

Trumbull High's nine member squad is composed of; Juan Ayala, Heather Dahlin, Shannon Green, Daniel Hirshfield, Betsy Pham, Merritt Ruff,

Elizabeth Tomasco, Luyi Zhang, and Megan Zhou. The team is coached by Mrs. Steffanie Elikns, Mr. Louis Monaco, and Mr. Dean Pelligra.

According to Mr. Monaco the team has prepared vigorously for this competition. They meet on a weekly basis to discuss each of the ten topics. All the students receive a packet each week on the topic that will be discussed at the meeting. Questions on the exams and Superquiz will come directly from these packets, so the students take them home to look through methodically.

In preparation for this competition each student takes the initiative to read the material on their own and prepare to discuss it at the meetings. Since the meetings began at the beginning of the school year the team has become close and developed a good chemistry. The team has high hopes for the competition due to the time and hard work each member has contributed, but knows this is a new experience and are not quite

sure what to expect. If they win states the team will go on to the national level to compete against 49 other teams.

Mr. Monaco hopes that, no matter what happens this year, all the students return in May to begin preparation for next year's Decathlon. He hopes new students with an interest in history show up to help with next year's competition and hopefully improve the team so it has all the tools to continue to strengthen and build the program.

Update:

Congratulations to the THS Academic Decathlon Squad who placed third this year. Junior Elizabeth Tomasco won bronze in the Scholastic Division and Heather Dahlin, also a junior, took silver in the Honors Division.

Mr. Peligra has high hopes for next year and says the THS AD team will begin meeting soon to discuss next year's topic: the Great Depression.



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