More than 100 academic programs, challenges, competitions, events and enrichment opportunities endorsed by the Minnesota Academic League Council for Minnesota K-12 students.

Reach for the Stars is printed and distributed by Lifetouch. Trusted nationally. Represented locally. Lifetouch serves the photographic needs of children and families across North America, in schools, studios and houses of worship.
Dear Colleagues,

Reach for the Stars is your guide to academic enrichment programs and activities that will supplement classroom learning and broaden or increase student performance. This catalogue features information on five types of statewide programs to complement classroom teaching and learning: challenges and competitions, awards and recognitions, conferences and institutes, classroom enrichment, and leadership development. These programs cover a wide range of subject areas and grade levels from kindergarten through adult. Whether offered outside the school day or embedded within classroom curricula, these programs will help students discover and develop their interests, passions and talents. They will help schools and communities support and integrate programs for students to stretch their abilities, learn new skills and reach new heights in learning.

With more than 100 active programs included in Reach for the Stars, we believe you will find one or more programs to help students, parents and schools meet personal expectations and local, state or national academic goals and standards.

Reach for the Stars is available on the Synergy & Leadership Exchange (Synergy) website www.synergyexchange.org in a PDF format for your reference, along with newly endorsed programs and updated information. Please refer to the program and activity providers’ websites listed in Reach for the Stars for event schedules and program updates. An application is posted on the Synergy website for any statewide program, competition or recognition that desires endorsement by the Minnesota Academic League Council (the state academic counterpart to the Minnesota State High School League for athletics) for inclusion in Reach for the Stars.

The Reach for the Stars catalogue is compiled by Synergy staff, working in conjunction with volunteer members of the Minnesota Academic League Council. Printing and distribution of Reach for the Stars to our partnering organizations is made possible through a generous contribution from Lifetouch. Distribution is facilitated through an expanded partnership network including several statewide and regional education organizations and associations as referenced in this catalogue. Preparation and updates of the catalogue is supported in part by the affiliate members of the Minnesota Academic League. Finally, our thanks go to the hundreds of volunteers, organizations and program providers whose combined efforts result in tens of thousands of Minnesota students enjoying challenging, stimulating and entertaining academic enrichment opportunities!

Best wishes for a great academic year,

Wanda Sommers Wall, Executive Director
Synergy & Leadership Exchange

Robert C. Cavanna, Ed.D., Chair
Minnesota Academic League Council

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YMCA of MN

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EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Reach for the Stars offers a concise listing of all programs that have met the criteria for endorsement by the Minnesota Academic League Council, with a cross-reference to skill sets and curricular areas addressed by each program. Use the Reach for the Stars listing of Minnesota Academic League programs to:

- Advance your students’ interests and learning.
- Find activities for the classroom or after-school programs.
- Recognize and reward students for their academic achievement.
- Provide interesting curriculum to help students meet state standards.
- Integrate applications of learning into your classroom.
- Make contacts with sponsoring organizations.
- Rally community support for academic activities.

All programs and activities are listed alphabetically by program name and include a brief description, appropriate grade or age level, skill sets used, contact information, fees and activity calendar. If you have difficulty finding an activity, check the index under Minnesota, MN, or National, because several programs are statewide or national in scope, which is reflected in the formal program name. A few programs have made slight changes to their name, which also affects their placement in the catalogue.

To participate in an activity, contact the sponsoring organization directly. The sponsor will provide the additional information and support you may need to enroll or participate, as well as any special requirements or deadlines.

---

**ACADEMIC DECATHLON**

Grades 9–12

*Program Category:* Challenges & Competitions

A national scholastic competition designed to stimulate intellectual growth and encourage greater respect for knowledge. The format includes students with A, B and C grade-point averages competing in 10 curricular areas. Competitions range from local scrimmages to national contests. This year’s theme is World War I.

*Academic skills:* Recall, problem solving and critical thinking

*Program provider:* South Central Service Cooperative


*Contact Information:*

- **Website:** www.mnscsc.org
- **Email:** jswenson@mnscsc.org
- **Phone:** (507) 389-2461 or (612) 578-3377
- **Fax:** (507) 389-1772
- **Mailing Address:** Joyce Swenson
  South Central Service Cooperative
  2075 Lookout Drive
  North Mankato, MN 56003

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**ACADEMIC TRIATHLON**

**CHALLENGER/CROSS TRAINER**

Grades 5–8

*Program Category:* Challenges & Competitions

Five-member teams compete in three round robins, plus regional and state tournaments, during which they participate in three separate contests: They write and perform a play; face other teams in a fast-paced, buzzer-driven contest of academic knowledge; and face at least three, 10-minute creative problem-solving challenges. Combined point total of the three events determines the winner. Samples of the challenges are available online or by mail. Registration form available online.

*Academic skills:* Problem solving, factual recall, critical thinking, creativity, interdisciplinary, teamwork, verbal reasoning and artistic expression

*Program provider:* US Academic Triathlon, Inc.


*Contact Information:*

- **Website:** www.academictriathlon.org
- **Email:** homeforUSAT@gmail.com
  State Coordinator: sarahjksheldon@gmail.com
- **Phone:** (507) 398-2461
- **Fax:** (320) 293-5122
- **Mailing Address:** Sarah K. Sheldon
  P.O. Box 333
  Northfield, MN 55057

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Students during their skit-planning session, part of the creativity program for middle school students.
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS IN WRITING
Grade 11
Program Category: Awards & Recognition
The Achievement Awards in Writing is a school-based writing program established in 1957 to encourage high school students in their writing and to recognize publicly some of the best student writers in the nation. The National Council of Teachers of English will give achievement awards to students nominated and cited as excellent writers by judges. Only students who are JUNIORS in the academic year 2013–2014 may be nominated for 2014 awards; they must be candidates for high school graduation in 2015.
Academic Skills: Writing, creativity and critical thinking
Program Provider: Achievement Awards in Writing
Fees and Deadlines: Nominations due in February. Winners are announced in May
Contact Information:
Website: www.ncte.org/awards/student/aa
Email: cstewart@ncte.org
Phone: (217) 278-3663
Mailing Address: Carrie Stewart
National Council of Teachers of English
1111 W. Kenyon Road
Urbana, IL 61801

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS STATE
Grade 11
Program Category: Conferences & Institutes, Leadership Development
The program is a practical application of Americanism and good citizenship. The purpose is to provide citizenship training for young women to afford an opportunity to live together as self-governing citizens and to inform themselves about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship.
Academic Skills: Cooperation, problem solving and critical thinking
Program Provider: American Legion Auxiliary
Fees and Deadlines: Fees paid by American Legion Auxiliary Units (local chapters). Visit website for details.
Contact Information:
Website: http://www.boysandgirlsstate.org/girls.html
Email: deptoffice@mnala.org
Phone: (651) 224-7634
Fax: (651) 224-5243
Mailing Address: MN American Legion Auxiliary
State Veterans Service Building
20 W. 12th St. #314
St. Paul, MN 55155

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE
Grade 11
Program Category: Conferences & Institutes, Leadership Development
American Legion Boys State is a practical training program in local and state government in which selected boys participate in authentic learning experiences. We attempt to illustrate to the boys the principles of representative form of government, and arouse an enduring interest in governmental affairs.
Academic Skills: Critical thinking, creativity
Program Provider: American Legion Boys State
Fees and Deadlines: Fees paid by sponsoring American Legion Post. Applications accepted on a first-come, first-served basis if qualified.
Contact Information:
Website: www.mnboysstate.org
Email: information@mnboysstate.org
Phone: (651) 291-1800, Toll free: (866) 259-9163
Mailing Address: Randy Tesdahl
The American Legion
20 West 12th St., Room 300A
St. Paul, MN 55155

AMERICAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITIONS - 8
Grade 6–8
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
The American Mathematics Competition (AMC) wants to increase interest in mathematics and to develop problem solving through friendly and fun competition. The AMC 8 is a 25-question, 40-minute multiple choice contest with no penalty for guessing. A student’s score is the number of problems correctly solved. The material covered is the middle school mathematics curriculum. No problem requires the use of algebra or a calculator. This contest is for individual recognition.
Academic Skills: Mathematical problem solving
Program Provider: Mathematics Association of America’s American Mathematics Competitions
Fees and Deadlines: Please see website for details.
Contact Information:
Website: http://www.maa.org/math-competitions/amc-8
Email: amcinfo@maa.org
Phone: (402) 472-2257
Fax: (402) 472-6087
Mailing Address: AMC Staff
MAA/American Mathematics Competitions
1740 Vine Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

AMERICAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITIONS - 10 & 12
AMC–10: Grades 9–10; AMC–12: Grades 11–12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
The American Mathematics Competition (AMC) wants to increase interest in mathematics and to develop problem solving through a friendly and fun competition. Both AMC 10 and AMC 12 are 25-question, 75-minute multiple choice contests administered by your school. The AMC 10 covers subject matter normally associated with grades 9–10. The AMC 12 covers the high school mathematics curriculum, excluding calculus. The problems range from relatively easy to extremely difficult. The contests are for individual recognition.
Academic Skills: Mathematical problem solving
Program Provider: Mathematics Association of America’s American Mathematics Competitions
Fees and Deadlines: Please see website for details.
Contact Information:
Website: http://www.maa.org/math-competitions/about-amc
Email: amcinfo@maa.org
Phone: (402) 472-2257
Fax: (402) 472-6087
Mailing Address: AMC Staff
MAA/American Mathematics Competitions
1740 Vine Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

AMERICAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITIONS
AMC Staff
CLASSROOM PLUS
Grades 4–12
Program Category: Classroom Enrichment
Through BestPrep's Classroom Plus program, teachers expand learning opportunities for students by bringing business and education together. The program staff coordinates volunteer speakers and tours to supplement classroom curricula. More than 400 speakers across Minnesota bring their business and career expertise into the classroom. They help connect students' classroom learning with real world applications while serving as positive role models.
Academic skills: Critical thinking. Curriculum: business, personal finance, consumer economics, technology, communication, careers and career education.
Program provider: BestPrep
Fees and Deadlines: Program is free. Please allow four weeks notice to schedule speakers.
Contact Information:
Website: www.bestprep.org
Email: cpinfo@bestprep.org
Phone: (763) 398-0090
Fax: (763) 398-0391
Mailing Address: BestPrep
                           c/o Classroom Plus Program Manager
                           7100 Northland Circle N., Suite 402
                           Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

CLOSE UP WASHINGTON D.C.
Grades 6–12
Program Category: Classroom Enrichment
Close Up offers transformative programs in Washington, D.C. for middle school and high school students. Teacher incentives and free participation with a minimum number of students. Many of Close Up’s curriculum components meet or exceed state and national history and social studies standards.
Academic skills: Critical thinking, creativity, cooperation, American history and governmental studies
Program provider: Close Up Foundation
Fees and Deadlines: Call for fees. Registration is rolling; programs run year round
Contact Information:
Website: http://closeup.org/
Email: outreach@closeup.org
Phone: (800) CLOSE UP
Fax: (703) 706-3625
Mailing Address: Close Up Washington DC
                        1330 Braddock Place, Suite 400
                        Alexandria, VA 22314

CIVIL WAR TEACHER INSTITUTE
Teachers of Grades 4–12
Program Category: Conferences & Institutes
Teachers will learn exciting methods for teaching the Civil War through workshops, lectures and battlefield tours.
Academic skills: Teacher training program, research, global citizenship
Program provider: Civil War Trust
Fees and Deadlines: A $100 non-refundable deposit is required for the Teacher Institute. Pre-conference workshops and optional tours are additional fees. Participants are responsible for their lodging and travel, but scholarships are available to cover these expenses. Select meals are included as well as Continuing Education Units.
Contact Information:
Website: www.civilwar.org/education
Email: teacherinstitute@civilwar.org
Phone: (202) 367-1861 Ext. 7223
Fax: (202) 367-1865
Mailing Address: Nicole Osier
                        Civil War Trust
                        1156 15th St. NW Suite 900
                        Washington, D.C. 20005
CONCORDIA LANGUAGE VILLAGES
Ages 7–18
Program Category: Classroom Enrichment
Students ages 7–18 can learn one of 15 languages or improve their language skills at an ACA certified and accredited summer camp or “Language Village” around Minnesota with culturally authentic sites located near Bemidji, MN. Languages offered include: Arabic, Chinese, Danish, English (ESL), Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish or Swedish. High school credit options available for all languages. Since 1961, Concordia Language Villages have been America’s premiere language and culture immersion programs for youth. School groups can attend “Village Weekends” in Bemidji, MN or “Village Field Trips” near Stillwater, MN during the academic year to experience language and cultural immersion in Spanish, French, German, Japanese or Chinese. Custom group options can also be arranged for other times and/or languages. Emphasis is on cultural awareness, global and peace issues, environmental stewardship, and language learning skills.
Academic skills: World language proficiency, global citizenship, environmental stewardship, recall, problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, cooperation and leadership
Program provider: Concordia College, Moorhead, MN
Fees and Deadlines: Check website for fees, scholarships, dates
Contact Information:
Website: www.ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org
Email: clv@cord.edu
Phone: (800) 222-4750
Fax: (218) 299-3807
Mailing Address: Concordia Language Villages
901 8th St. S
Moorhead, MN 56562

CONTINENTAL MATH LEAGUE
Grades 2–9
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
This program is designed both to maximize student opportunities to participate and to improve students’ problem solving skills. Students compete in their own schools with others at the same grade level across the U.S. Activities can be held during regular class time. Math books also available. Our meets and books should provide excellent support to your common core program.
Academic skills: Calculus, problem solving and critical thinking.
Program provider: Continental Math League
Fees and Deadlines: Grades 2–3: $75 per team, Grades 4–9: $85 first team and $70 additional teams; Registration October 2013; Meet dates: November 2013 – March 2014
Contact Information:
Website: www.cmlleague.org
Email: cmlleague@optonline.net
Phone: (631) 584-2016
Fax: (631) 584-6627
Mailing Address: Joseph Quartararo
Continental Math League
P.O. Box 2196
St. James, NY 11780

CURRENT EVENTS CHALLENGE
Grades 5–12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
For 32 weeks of the school year, teachers who subscribe go online and download the weekly edition that highlights the news, sports and entertainment from the week. Teachers also receive two comprehensive semester tests to be used to measure the effectiveness of the program and complete instructions on the recommended implementation.
Academic skills: Critical thinking skills, citizenship and geographic knowledge
Fees and Deadlines: $50/year for new subscribers; $100/year subsequent years. September-May.
Contact Information:
Website: www.currenteventschallenge.com
Email: rarmstrong@wheaton.k12.mn.us
Phone: (320) 563-8423
Mailing Address: Russell Armstrong
6375 County Road 7
Wheaton, MN 56296

CYBERPATRIOT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CYBER DEFENSE COMPETITION
Grades 9–12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
CyberPatriot is the premiere national high school cyber-defense competition created to inspire high school students toward careers in cyber-security or other science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to our nation’s future.
Academic skills: Problem solving, critical thinking and computer skills
Program provider: Air Force Association
Contact Information:
Email: info@uscyberpatriot.org
Phone: (877)885-5716
Mailing Address: CyberPatriot Program Office
1501 Lee Highway
Arlington, VA 22209-1198

Students work together during the Cyber Patriot competition.
ECONOMICS CHALLENGE
Grades 9–12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
Students compete individually and as a team answering multiple-choice questions on microeconomics, macroeconomics and international economics. After the third round of written tests (15 questions per topic), the top two teams compete head-to-head in a lightning "quiz bowl" round. The winning team advances to regional, state and national competitions. Teams compete in three divisions: small school, large school and advanced placement. Location in a division is determined by the length and nature of the economics class in which students are enrolled. Also available is Economics Challenge ONLINE! Visit www.mcee.umn.edu for more information.
Academic skills: Recall, problem solving and critical thinking
Program provider: Minnesota Council on Economic Education
Fees and Deadlines: No fee, but transportation to the competition site is required. Transportation is paid to regional and national competitions. Contests are held spring 2014.

Contact Information:
Website: www.mcee.umn.edu
Email: mhtimmel@umn.edu
Phone: (612) 625-3727
Fax: (612) 625-3186

Mailing Address: Meghan Timmel
Department of Applied Economics
1994 Buford Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108

FEDERAL JUNIOR DUCK STAMP PROGRAM, MINNESOTA STATE CONTEST
Grades K–12
Program Category: Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment (Waterfowl conservation curriculum and art contest)
The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program is a dynamic standards-based education program designed to spark youth interest in habitat conservation through science, art, math and technology. It stresses wildlife observation, nature journaling, photography, enjoying and exploring the outside world, and investigating the treasures of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Students in kindergarten through high school are encouraged to interpret the natural world through artistic expression. By providing a basis for participation in the Jr. Duck Stamp Design Contest, the activities encourage students to move beyond simply "learning about" wildlife and wildlife art, to testing their abilities as wildlife artists. During the contest, youth are judged in four groups according to grade level: K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. Three first, second and third place entries, along with 16 honorable mentions, will be selected from each group. The Best of Show art is forwarded to the national contest.
Academic skills: Problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity, research, environmental stewardship and artistic expression
Program provider: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Fees and Deadlines: No fee. Entries for the Minnesota Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest must be postmarked by midnight of March 15 annually. Please see website for details.
**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**Grades 7-12**

**Program Category:** Classroom Enrichment

BestPrep’s Financial Matters program equips students with the tools necessary to develop sound money management skills through industry professionals who help develop and deliver presentations focused on financial literacy, many of which are accompanied by PowerPoint presentations. From credit to scholarships, budgeting to buying a car, the program provides real-life lessons in money management.

**Academic skills:** Finance, accounting, economics, and independent living

**Program provider:** BestPrep

**Fees and Deadlines:** No fees. Speakers through Financial Matters can be requested anytime throughout the school year. We just ask that teachers request at least one month in advance.

**Contact Information:**

- **Website:** www.bestprep.org/programs/financial-matters/
- **Email:** lmarvinnelson@bestprep.org
- **Phone:** (763) 233-6324
- **Fax:** (763) 398-0391
- **Mailing Address:** Laura Marvin Nelson
  7100 Northland Circle N., Suite 402
  Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

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**FEDERAL RESERVE ESSAY CONTEST**

**Grades 9–12**

**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions

The essay topic for this economic education contest provides an opportunity for teachers and students in the Ninth Federal Reserve District to study issues concerning economics, banking and the Federal Reserve.

**Academic skills:** Problem solving, critical thinking, writing and creativity

**Program provider:** Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

**Fees and Deadlines:** No fees. Essays and student entry forms due in late March. Winners announced in late April. Please check website for specific dates.

**Contact Information:**

- **Website:** http://www.minneapolisfed.org/community_education/student/essay
- **Email:** Joseph.Mahon@mpls.frb.org
- **Phone:** (612) 204-5254
- **Fax:** (612) 204-5273
- **Mailing Address:**
  Joseph Mahon
  Federal Reserve Bank - Mpls.
  P.O. Box 291
  Minneapolis, MN 55480

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**FESTIVAL QUIJOTE**

**Grades 5–12**

**Program Category:** Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment

Festival Quijote provides all Minnesota Spanish students an opportunity to learn about, and display their talent in, the language and cultures of Spanish-speakers across the globe. You can find complete information and registration forms at www.mn-aatsp.org

**Academic skills:** Problem solving, factual recall, critical thinking, creativity, interdisciplinary, research, public speaking, teamwork, leadership development, global citizenship, verbal reasoning, artistic expression and Spanish language

**Program provider:** Minnesota Chapter of AATSP—The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese

**Fees and Deadlines:** AATSP membership required: $65 per teacher. Teachers may participate once in Festival Quijote without being a member, but a teacher must be a member to participate in the National Spanish Exam. Festival Quijote entry fee must be paid by all students, regardless of whether or not they participated in the National Spanish Exam. Visit website for fees and deadlines.

**Contact Information:**

- **Website:** www.mn-aatsp.org
- **Email:** veronica.guevara@breckschool.org
- **Phone:** (763) 381-8100
- **Mailing Address:**
  Veronica Guevara
  Breck School
  123 Ottowa Ave. North
  Golden Valley, MN 55422

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**FIRST LEGO® LEAGUE**

**Grades 4–9**

**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions

FIRST LEGO® League (FLL) is a worldwide program for 9-14 year-old kids created through a partnership between FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) and the LEGO Company. FLL helps kids discover the fun in science and technology using real-world context and hands-on experimentation.

**Academic skills:** Problem solving, critical thinking, creativity and cooperation

**Program provider:** FIRST

**Fees and Deadlines:** Please visit the website.

**Contact Information:**

- **Website:** www.hightechkids.org
- **Email:** vicki@hightechkids.org
- **Phone:** (612) 781-2203
- **Mailing Address:**
  Vicki Coaty
  High Tech Kids
  111 3rd Avenue South, Suite 145
  Minneapolis, MN 55401
GATHERING OF CHAMPIONS
Grades K–12
Program Category: Awards & Recognitions
An annual event to celebrate academic excellence and to honor outstanding K–12 students as Academic All-Stars. Teachers, administrators and/or academic challenge coaches can honor student achievement by nominating their top students or those that have made a dramatic improvement in their academic work for recognition as Academic All-Stars. Nominations can be placed online each spring at www.synergyexchange.org. Nominators will receive information to provide to their nominees to attend this annual event.
Program provider: Synergy & Leadership Exchange
Fees and Deadlines: No fees. Statewide event: Aug. 1, 2014
Contact Information:
Website: www.synergyexchange.org
Email: synergy@synergyexchange.org
Phone: (612) 578-3377
Fax: (507) 389-1772
Mailing Address: Joyce Swenson
Synergy & Leadership Exchange
2075 Lookout Drive
North Mankato, MN 56003

GLOBAL FOOD CHALLENGE
Grades 9–12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
Global Food Challenge is a series of innovative learning activities exploring basic economics in the context of world food issues. The four units can be used separately or in combination: Basic Economics of Food Markets, Economics of Food Security, Economics of Food Safety and Economics of World Food Trade. Each unit includes hands-on activities, research, analysis and a written project, and is aligned with Minnesota Academic Standards. The final project in each unit can be entered into a state competition for cash awards. Awards are presented to first and second places for each unit.
Academic skills: Researching, problem solving, critical thinking and writing
Program provider: Minnesota Council on Economic Education
Fees and Deadlines: There are no fees. State contest is held in spring. Curriculum materials are free upon request.
Contact Information:
Website: www.mcee.umn.edu
Email: mhtimmel@umn.edu
Phone: (612) 625-3727
Fax: (612) 625-3186
Mailing Address: Minnesota Council on Economic Education
Department of Applied Economics
1994 Buford Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108

HOBY YOUTH LEADERSHIP SEMINAR
Grade 10
Program Category: Leadership Development
The world needs strong leaders – HOBY helps develop the youth to serve their communities, starting immediately. In the last 4 years, our 300+ alumni have logged more than 20,000 community service hours! Attending a HOBY program is a great chance for students to stand out and be outstanding; to show others who they are and what they can do. It’s an open door to lifelong leadership and service opportunities. We can’t wait to meet you and have you learn how to unlock your potential through HOBY!
Program provider: Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership – Minnesota, Inc.
Fees and Deadlines: $150/person. Schools must register students by March for June 2014 Seminar.
Contact Information:
Web site: www.hobyminnesota.org
Email: jimtincher@hobyminnesota.org
Phone: (612) 747-4021
Mailing Address: Jim Tincher
5337 France Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN 55410
JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT K-12 CLASSROOM PROGRAMS
Grades K-12
Program Category: Classroom Enrichment
With the concepts of financial literacy, workforce readiness and entrepreneurship, all JA curriculum is correlated to state education standards for language arts, social studies and mathematics. Every lesson incorporates innovative, hands-on activities that make it fun and motivating for students to learn while business and community volunteers, recruited by JA, add real world experience to the classroom education.

Academic skills: Problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, public speaking, teamwork, leadership development, global citizenship, environmental stewardship, time/budget management and personal development

Program provider: Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest

Fees and Deadlines: Fees vary by location, contact us for details.

Contact Information:
Website: www.jaum.org
Email: lachelle@jaum.org
Phone: (651) 255-0055
Fax: (651) 255-0460
Mailing Address: LaChelle Williams
1800 White Bear Avenue North
Maplewood, MN 55109

KIDS PHILOSOPHY SLAM
Grades K-12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
A philosophical competition designed to make philosophy and creative thinking accessible for kids of all ages and abilities. Students K-12 respond to a philosophical topic posed nationwide through artwork, poetry, music and essays. More than $5,000 in prizes. Please visit the website for topic and entry information.

Academic skills: Creativity and critical thinking

Fees and Deadlines: Dates to be announced

Contact Information:
Website: www.philosophyslam.org
Email: info@philosophyslam.org
Phone: (507) 467-0102
Mailing Address: John Davis
P.O. Box 406
Lanesboro, MN 55949
**KNOWLEDGE BOWL COMPETITION-JR. HIGH**

Grades 7–8  
**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions  
Junior High Knowledge Bowl is an interdisciplinary academic contest for junior high school students. Teams of students answer questions in a variety of academic areas.  
**Academic skills:** Recall, critical thinking, cooperation and problem solving  
**Program provider:** Lakes Country Service Cooperative  
**Fees and Deadlines:** Fees and dates vary by region.  
**Contact Information:**  
Website: http://www.lcsc.org//Domain/47  
Email: sward@lcsc.org  
Phone: (218) 739-3273  
Fax: (218) 739-2459  
**Mailing Address:** Susan Ward  
Lakes Country Service Cooperative  
1001 E. Mount Faith  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

**KNOWLEDGE BOWL COMPETITION-SR. HIGH**

Grades 9–12  
**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions  
Senior High Knowledge Bowl is an interdisciplinary academic contest. Students work in teams of four to answer questions in a variety of academic areas. Students can compete for state championships.  
**Academic skills:** Recall, critical thinking, cooperation and problem solving  
**Program provider:** Lakes Country Service Cooperative  
**Fees and Deadlines:** Fees and dates vary by region; State Knowledge Bowl meets spring 2014.  
**Contact Information:**  
Website: http://www.lcsc.org//Domain/47  
Email: sward@lcsc.org  
Phone: (218) 739-3273  
Fax: (218) 739-2459  
**Mailing Address:** Susan Ward  
Lakes Country Service Cooperative  
1001 E. Mount Faith  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

**LIFESMARTS**

Grades 9–12  
**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions  
LifeSmarts is a fun, game show style competition that rewards students in grades 9–12 for their consumer knowledge. Curriculum materials help integrate LifeSmarts into the classroom.  
**Academic skills:** Problem solving, critical thinking, recall and cooperation  
**Program provider:** Better Business Bureau of Minnesota & North Dakota  
**Fees and Deadlines:** Participation is free. Online competition generally takes place between September and January. (Check the LifeSmarts website for dates.) In-person state competitions take place in March. The national competition is generally held in April in a major U.S. city.  
**Contact Information:**  
Website: www.lifesmarts.org  
Email: lifesmarts@nclnet.org  
Phone: (651) 699-3650  
Fax: (651) 699-7665

**MATH MASTERS**

Grades 5–6  
**Program Category:** Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment  
Math Masters of Minnesota challenges students to use critical thinking skills and problem-solving abilities in mathematics, while recognizing academic effort and achievement. Students compete as individuals and in teams of five to complete written and timed math tests. There are eight rounds of competitions in all. Students are recognized with plaques, medallions and ribbons for fact drill round, the individual rounds and the team competition.  
**Academic skills:** Factual recall, problem solving, critical thinking, time/budget management and teamwork  
**Program provider:** Math Masters of Minnesota  
**Fees and Deadlines:** Competitions are held at more than 40 different regional sites. 6th grade: March 6, 7, 8, 2014; 5th grade: April 24, 25, 26, 2014. Check website for more information, fees and deadlines.  
**Contact Information:**  
Website: www.mathmastersmn.org  
Email: mathmasters@austin.k12.mn.us  
Phone: (507) 460-1843  
Fax: (507) 460-1843  
**Mailing Address:** Janel Horner  
301 NW 3rd St.  
Austin, MN 55912

**MATH OLYMPIADS FOR ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOLS INC.**

Grades 4–6 (Division E), 6–8 (Division M)  
**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions  
Math Olympiads is a series of five contests per year in each division. A tournament is a full-day competition among different teams of students in each division. It can be offered by any organization in the spring.  
**Academic skills:** Problem solving, critical thinking and creativity  
**Program provider:** Math Olympiads for Elementary & Middle Schools Inc.  
**Fees and Deadlines:** Registration deadline October 15, 2013. The fee to enroll a team with a US postal code is $99 using online delivery.  
**Contact Information:**  
Website: www.moems.org  
Email: office@moems.org  
Phone: (866) 781-2411  
Fax: (516) 785-6640  
**Mailing Address:** Nicholas J. Restivo  
2154 Bellmore Ave.  
Bellmore, NY 11710
MATHCEP-SATURDAY MATH ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS
Grades 5–7
Program Category: Classroom Enrichment
The University of Minnesota’s School of Mathematics Center for Educational Programs (MathCEP) offers enrichment programs for students in grades 5–7 during the school year. The primary objective of these programs is to offer innovative activities focused on a variety of mathematics topics that go beyond the classroom.
Academic skills: Critical thinking and problem solving
Fees and Deadlines: For fees and calendar dates call MathCEP at (612) 625-2861 or visit the website.
Contact Information:
Website: www.mathcep.umn.edu/satenrich
Email: mathcep@umn.edu
Phone: (612) 625-2861
Fax: (612) 612-1150
Mailing Address: Enrichment — MathCEP
4 Vincent Hall, U of M
206 Church St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

MATHCOUNTS
Grades 6–8
Program Category: Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
MATHCOUNTS is a combination coaching and competition program promoting student interest in mathematics by making math as challenging, exciting and prestigious as a school sport. MATHCOUNTS provides a school handbook and other materials to teachers who use these materials to coach students as part of in-class instruction or an extracurricular activity. Classroom participation is followed by chapter, state and national competitions. Free MATHCOUNTS club program materials are available at www.mathcounts.org to provide schools with tools and resources to hold regular math club meetings.
Academic skills: Factual recall, problem solving, critical thinking, creativity and teamwork
Program provider: MN Society of Professional Engineers
Fees and Deadlines: Team of 4 – $90; Individual – $25; Title I Schools – $40 per team; $10 per individual. Registration deadline early December.
Contact Information:
Website: www.mathcounts.org
Email: katie@mathcounts.org
Phone: (651) 457-2347
Mailing Address: Katie Jamieson
20 East Thompson Avenue, Suite 206
West St. Paul, MN 55118

MN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL STEM COMMUNICATOR AWARD
Grades 10–12
Program Category: Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions
Paper submission of research on a particular science, technical, engineering, math project.
Academic skills: Science, math, technology, engineering, problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, writing and communication
Program provider: Minnesota Academy of Science
Fees and Deadlines: $25 registration fee. See website for details.
Contact Information:
Website: www.mnmas.org
Email: kmnewell@district287.org
Phone: (952) 545-6789
Fax: (952) 545-6336
Mailing Address: Karen Newell
MN Academy of Science
8700 West 36th Street, Suite 25
St. Louis Park, MN 55426

MN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE JUNIOR SCIENCE/HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM
Grades 9–12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
Poster and paper presentation of research on a particular science project or problem.
Academic skills: Problem solving, critical thinking and creativity
Program provider: Minnesota Academy of Science
Fees and Deadlines: See website.
Contact Information:
Website: www.mnmas.org
Email: contact@mnmas.org
Phone: (952) 545-6789
Fax: (952) 545-6336
Mailing Address: JSHS Director
MN Academy of Science
8700 West 36th Street, Suite 114W Box 25
St. Louis Park, MN 55426
**MN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE BOWLS**

Grades 6–8, 9–12  
**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions  
Students compete during this one-day tournament in five-person teams solving technical problems and answering questions in all branches of science and math. The competition is conducted in a fast-paced question and answer format. Teams go head-to-head and ring in to answer questions, just like the TV show Jeopardy. Each team plays multiple games in the round robin tournament with the chance to advance to a double-elimination championship. The winning team qualifies to represent Minnesota and compete at the National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C. in April. The trip is all expenses paid courtesy of the U.S. Department of Energy.  
**Academic skills:** Factual recall, teamwork, problem solving, leadership development and critical thinking  
**Program provider:** Minnesota Academy of Science  
**Fees and Deadlines:** See website for competition dates.  
**Registration fee:** $150 per team of 5 students.  
**Contact Information:**  
**Website:** www.mnmas.org  
**Email:** contact@mnmas.org  
**Phone:** (952) 545-6789  
**Fax:** (952) 545-6336  
**Mailing Address:** Science Bowl Manager  
Minnesota Academy of Science  
8700 West 36th Street, Suite 114W Box 25  
St. Louis Park, MN 55426

**Minnesota Academy of Science Science Bowl First Place Mahtomedi Middle School**

**MN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE STATE SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR**

Grades 6–12  
**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions  
The Minnesota Academy of MN State Science & Engineering Fair is an annual event that showcases Minnesota’s best and brightest students in the field of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).  
**Academic skills:** Problem solving, critical thinking, creativity and cooperation  
**Program provider:** Minnesota Academy of Science  
**Fees and Deadlines:** See website.  
**Contact Information:**  
**Website:** www.mnmas.org  
**Email:** contact@mnmas.org  
**Phone:** (952) 545-6789  
**Fax:** (952) 545-6336  
**Mailing Address:**  
State Science & Engineering Fair Director  
Minnesota Academy of Science  
8700 West 36th Street, Suite 114W Box 25  
St. Louis Park, MN 55426

**MINNESOTA AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM (MAITC)**

Grades K–16 and General Public  
**Program Category:** Classroom Enrichment  
The Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC) program provides quality classroom resources and teacher professional development designed to educate people about agriculture’s role in their survival and create agriculturally literate individuals. An agriculturally literate person understands and can communicate the source and value of agriculture as it affects their quality of life. Our materials and programs are closely aligned with state academic standards and the nationwide Common Core standards. MAITC seeks to improve student achievement by applying authentic agricultural examples to teach core curriculum concepts in science, social studies, language arts, math and nutrition. FREE resources available to teachers and students: AgMag Series, with accompanying teacher, guide for grades 4-6; AgMag Jr. for primary grades, AgMag Jr. in Spanish, Food for Thought K-12 geography curriculum, MN Commodity Cards, Agricultural Children’s Literature Book Bundle, and various supplemental materials. MAITC also facilitates FREE professional development workshops for educators to gain hands-on experience in infusing agriculture into their curriculum and become more comfortable with the subject of agriculture.  
**Academic skills:** Problem solving, critical thinking, interdisciplinary, environmental stewardship and agricultural literacy  
**Program provider:** MAITC  
**Fees and Deadlines:** All MAITC resources are FREE except the Children’s Literature Book Bundle.  
**Contact Information:**  
**Website:** www.mda.state.mn.us/maitc  
**Email:** alan.withers@state.mn.us  
**Phone:** (651) 201-6688  
**Mailing Address:**  
Al Withers, Program Director  
MN Department of Agriculture  
625 Robert Street North  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**MINNESOTA BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA, SECONDARY DIVISION**

Grades 9–12  
**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions, Leadership Development  
The mission of Business Professionals of America (BPA) is to contribute to the preparation of a world-class work force through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic and technological career skills for business and office students. Combines school-based and work-based learning.  
**Academic skills:** Leadership, problem solving and critical thinking  
**Program provider:** MN BPA  
**Contact Information:**  
**Website:** www.mnbpa.org  
**Twitter:** @mnbpa  
**Email:** jackie@tekstar.com  
**Phone:** (218) 847-5355  
**Fax:** (218) 846-9119
**MINNESOTA BUSINESS VENTURE (MBV)**
Grades 9–12
**Program Category:** Awards & Recognitions, Classroom Enrichment, Conferences & Institutes
MBV is ideal for students dreaming of starting their own business, searching for career direction, heading off for college or just eager to get into the workforce. Students spend a week during the summer at St. John’s University or St. Cloud State University developing leadership, teamwork and communication skills as well as important business experience from numerous business professionals. MBV helps students develop a career focus and plan, build their résumé and reference pool, and hone real-life skills they can use for the rest of their lives. Activities during the week include mock interviews, creating a business plan as a team, learning to budget/invest money and listening to great speakers.

**Academic skills:** Problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, interdisciplinary, research, public speaking, teamwork, leadership development, time/budget management, entrepreneurship and business skills

**Program provider:** BestPrep

**Fees and Deadlines:** Contact for dates and fees. Register in the Spring, session typically in July.

**Contact Information:**
Website: www.bestprep.org
Email: mbv@bestprep.org
Phone: (763) 233-6325

Mailing Address:
Janae Olinger
BestPrep
7100 Northland Circle North, Suite 402
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

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**MINNESOTA ENVIROTHON**
Grades 6–12
**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions
The Envirothon is an outdoor environmental learning competition for high school students. Area competitions and the state competition are administered by Soil and Water Conservation Districts, in partnership with conservation organizations, educators and other natural resource agencies. The Envirothon promotes a desire for students to learn more about Minnesota’s natural resources, as well as public policy and roles of government and landowners in managing the state’s resources. Teams of students compete by visiting five learning stations and taking a 20-point exam on an environmental topic. The topics are aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and current events. Teams also prepare and give an oral presentation on the current events topic, which is new each year. Many areas also have a Junior Envirothon for students in grades 6–8. Participating students go to all of the same learning stations, but they do not give an oral presentation.

**Academic skills:** Knowledge of natural resource issues and topics, public speaking, research, critical thinking, problem solving-skills, interdisciplinary, creativity and teamwork

**Program provider:** Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD)

**Fees and Deadlines:** Check website for schedule of competitions and deadlines.

**Contact Information:**
Website: http://www.maswcd.org/envirothon.htm
Email: judy.johnston@stevensswcd.org
Phone: (320) 589-4886

Mailing Address:
Judy Johnston
Stevens SWCD
12 Hwy 28 E Ste 2
Morris, MN 56267-9505

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**MINNESOTA FCCLA**
Grades 6–12
**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions, Leadership Development
Minnesota FCCLA provides a comprehensive program for grades 6–12 including leadership, 45 STAR event competitions, STOP the violence, service projects, as well as a co-curricular focus on family, child development, money management, family communication, teen issues, career exploration, and community issues at local, regional, state and national levels. Nationally affiliated with Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). FCCLA is a lead state agency for Global Youth Service Day in April.

**Academic skills:** Problem solving, leadership development, peer education, critical thinking, creativity, cooperation and public speaking

**Program Provider:** MN Department of Education - MN FCCLA

**Fees and Deadlines:** Please call (651) 330-2855.

**Contact Information:**
Website: www.mnfccla.org
Email: wendy.ambrose@state.mn.us
Phone: (651) 330-2855

Mailing Address:
Wendy Ambrose - MN FCCLA
Minnesota Department of Education
P.O. Box 131386
Roseville, MN 55113

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**MINNESOTA DECA**
Grades 9–12
**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions, Leadership Development
DECA is a school-to-work student organization which provides marketing related activities and leadership development. It combines school-based and work-based learning, focusing on careers in marketing, management and entrepreneurship. Competition is in occupational skills, leadership and management.

**Academic skills:** Leadership, management skills, civic consciousness, job responsibility and motivation

**Program provider:** Minnesota DECA


**Contact Information:**
Website: www.mndeca.org
Facebook: ww.facebook.com/mndeca
Email: jackie@tekstar.com
Phone: (218) 847-5355
Fax: (218) 846-9119

Mailing Address:
Jackie Schiller
21576 NE Pickerel Lake Dr.
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
MINNESOTA FFA
Grades 7–12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions, Leadership Development
FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of young people by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success!
Academic skills: Communications, leadership and decision-making skills
Program provider: Minnesota FFA
Contact Information:
Website: www.mnffa.org
Email: jim.ertl@state.mn.us
Phone: (651) 669-3855
Mailing Address: James Ertl
Minnesota FFA
P.O. Box 118
Rosemount, MN 55068

MINNESOTA FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING
Grades K–12
Program Category: Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions, Conferences & Institutes, Leadership Development
Problem-solving skills, and critical and creative thinking skills, are taught both in the classroom and as an extracurricular activity. There are three competitions each year: region, state and international. There are five components: Team Global Issues Problem Solving Competition, Individual Global Issues Problem Solving Competition, Scenario Writing, Community Problem Solving and Action Based Problem Solving, which is non-competitive. For information about the Future Problem Solving Program (FPSP) Classroom Curriculum, be sure to contact Cheryl. The FPSP meets the criteria of STEM and the 21st Century Skills.
Academic skills: Problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, interdisciplinary, research, public speaking, teamwork, leadership development, global citizenship, environmental stewardship, time/budget management, verbal reasoning, artistic expression and analytical thinking skills
Program provider: Cheryl Whitesitt
Fees and Deadlines: Visit the website for fees and deadlines.
Contact Information:
Website: www.mnfpsp.org
Email: cheryl@mnfpsp.org
Phone: (507) 482-6867
Fax: (507) 482-6323
Mailing Address: Cheryl Whitesitt
10299 County Road 18, P.O. Box 8
Brownsville, MN 55919

MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC LISTENING CONTEST
Grades 9–12
Program Category: Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment, Leadership Development
The Minnesota High School Music Listening Contest assists teachers in their efforts to expand the music experiences of students, primarily through the use of Western art music, commonly referred to as classical music. The contest materials cover classical music, global perspectives and a variety of musical influences. The objective of the contest is to inspire students to become lifelong participants in the musical experience. Students gain understanding and appreciation of other cultures through listening and learning about music from various areas and time periods. They also develop teamwork skills as they work in teams of three to compete in the regional and state contests.
Academic skills: Factual recall, critical thinking, creativity, interdisciplinary, teamwork and artistic expression
Program provider: The Music Listening Contest
Fees and Deadlines: Registration fee is $90 per team (Each team receives three student guides, one coach’s guide and three repertoire CDs with narration). Registration Deadline: Oct. 18, 2013; Regional Contests: Jan. 24, 2014; State contest: Feb. 7, 2014
Contact Information:
Website: www.musiclisteningcontest.com
Email: deb_nelson@musiclisteningcontest.com
Phone: (763) 862-7647
Mailing Address: Deb Nelson, program coordinator
1816 136th Ave. NE
Ham Lake, MN 55304-7007

MINNESOTA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL MATH LEAGUE
Grades 7–8
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
The purpose of the JHML is to encourage students to participate in math contests, serve as a “farm club” for the MSHSML, enable students to meet mathletes from other schools, and to provide recognition for students excelling in mathematics.
Academic skills: Problem solving, critical thinking and creativity
Fees and Deadlines: See website for details.
Contact Information:
Website: www.mnjhml.com
Email: mathleague@aol.com
Phone: (763) 572-1568
Mailing Address: Marlys Henke
4429 - 2 1/2 St NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421
**MINNESOTA MATHEMATICS LEAGUE**

Grades 4–8  
*Program Category: Challenges & Competitions*

The Math League has math contests for grades 4 through 8, Algebra 1 students and high school students. More than one million students from the United States and Canada participate in Math League contests each year. Every contest has questions from different areas of mathematics. The goal is to encourage student interest and confidence in mathematics through solving worthwhile problems. Many students first develop an interest in mathematics through problem solving activities such as these contests. Schools compete in statewide or multi-state league competitions.

**Academic skills:** Problem solving, critical thinking and creativity  
**Fees and Deadlines:** Please see website for contest dates, fees and deadlines.

**Contact Information:**  
*Website:* www.themathleague.com  
*Email:* dan@mathleague.com  
*Phone:* (201) 568-6328  
*Fax:* (201) 816-0125  
*Mailing Address:* Daniel Fleger  
P.O. Box 120418  
New Brighton, MN 55112

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**MINNESOTA REGIONAL FUTURE CITY COMPETITION**

Grades 6–8  
*Program Category: Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment*

From September to January, students work in teams under the guidance of a teacher and a volunteer engineer mentor to create a city of the future. First, students design a virtual city at least 150 years in the future using the new SimCity 5 software. Then students complete two writing assignments: a 1,000-word research essay on an engineering challenge (the 2013–2014 topic is “Tomorrow’s Transit: Design a Way to Move People in and Around Your City”) and a city narrative (a 500-word description of the city’s unique features). Finally, students build a tabletop scale model of a section of their city using recycled materials and develop a 7-minute oral presentation about their city. Teams give their presentations and showcase their city models at the final regional event on Jan. 18, 2014 at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis campus. The first place team receives a free trip to Washington, D.C. to compete in the National Future City Competition, which will take place in February 2014.

**Academic skills:** Science, technology, engineering, mathematics, problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, research, interdisciplinary, teamwork, time/budget management, artistic expression and public speaking  
**Program provider:** Locally: Success Beyond the Classroom; Nationally: Engineers Week  

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**MINNESOTA SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS**

Grades 7–12  
*Program Category: Awards & Recognitions*

Minnesota high school students, grade 7–12, are invited to enter a juried art exhibition. Award winners are recognized and honored at an award ceremony and reception. Show is being held at the Perpich Center for Arts Education.

**Academic skills:** Critical thinking, creativity and problem solving  
**Program provider:** Art Educators of Minnesota  
**Fees and Deadlines:** Visit website for deadlines.

**Contact Information:**  
*Website:* www.artandwriting.org  
*Email:* scullyd@colheights.k12.mn.us  
*Phone:* 763-537-8968 or 763-528-4480  
*Mailing Address:* Diane Scully, MSAA Advisory Council Chair  
3617 Admiral Lane  
Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55429

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**MINNESOTA SCIENCE OLYMPIAD (DIVISION A)**

Grades 3–6  
*Program Category: Challenges & Competitions*

Eighteen events including Anatomy, Astronomy, Biomass, Bottle Rockets, Data Detective, Egg Drop, Large Number Estimation, Model Airplane Building, Pasta Tower Building, Tennis Ball Catapult, Robotics, Fossils, etc. Medals and trophies are awarded for top place finishers in individual events and overall team performance.

**Academic skills:** Problem solving, factual recall, critical thinking and teamwork  
**Program provider:** Minnesota Science Olympiad  
**Fees and Deadlines:** $60 for a team of up to 20 members. Registration deadline Feb. 28, 2014. Rules available with registration beginning in October. Tournament held April 12, 2014 at Mounds View High School  
**Contact Information:**  
*Website:* www.minnesotaso.org  
*Email:* MnSciOly@gmail.com  
*Phone:* (651) 621-7177  
*Mailing Address:* Michael Huberty  
Mounds View High School  
1900 Lake Valentine Road  
Arden Hills, MN 55112

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**MINNESOTA SCIENCE OLYMPIAD (DIVISION B)**

Grades 6–9  
*Program Category: Challenges & Competitions*

Twenty-three events including Crave the Wave, Scrambler, Tower Building, Balloon Launched Glider, RoboCross, Magnify Your Strength, Meteorology, Amphibians and Reptiles. Medals and trophies are awarded for top place finishers in individual events and overall team performance.

**Academic skills:** Problem solving, factual recall, critical thinking and teamwork  
**Program provider:** National Science Olympiad  
**Fees and Deadlines:** $125 for a 15-member team, plus up to five
more students as alternate competitors. Coaches’ manuals from previous years available upon request. New manuals available with registration beginning in September. Regional events held in February. State tournament held March 1, 2014 at the University of St. Thomas.

**Contact Information:**
Website: www.mnmathleague.org
Email: mathleague@augsburg.edu
Phone: (612) 330-1788
Fax: (612) 330-1509
Mailing Address: Dana Koletar
MN State High School Mathematics League
C/o Augsburg College
Campus Box 190 – 2211 Riverside Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55454

**MINNESOTA SCIENCE OLYMPIAD (DIVISION C)**
Grades 9–12
**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions
Twenty-three events including Anatomy, Astronomy, Bungee Drop, Circuit Lab, Forensics, Geologic Mapping, Gliders, Magnetic Levitation Vehicle, Roller Coasters, Water Quality, etc. Medals and trophies are awarded for top place finishers in individual events and overall team performance.

**Academic skills:** Problem solving, factual recall, critical thinking and teamwork

**Program provider:** Minnesota Science Olympiad
**Fees and Deadlines:** $140 for 1st team, $90 for additional teams. Discounts for multiple teams per school. Registration deadline Dec. 15, 2013. Coaches’ manuals available with registration beginning in September. Regional events held across Minnesota in early February. State tournament held March 8, 2014 at Bethel University.

**Contact Information:**
Website: www.mnsc-o.org
Email: MSciOly@gmail.com
Phone: (612) 621-7177
Mailing Address: Michael Huberty
Mounds View High School
1900 Lake Valentine Road
Arden Hills, MN 55112

**MINNESOTA STATE GEOGRAPHERS’ FAIR**
Grades K–8
**Program Category:** Awards & Recognitions
Every year K–8 students bring individual, small group or whole class projects to the Fair, where geographers evaluate their projects. Student participants receive free exhibit hall passes to the Science Museum of Minnesota for the day (OMNI passes are not included), a school participation certificate and take part in special geography activities. The event concludes with door prize drawings for both teachers and students.

**Academic skills:** Geography, visual arts, cooperation and creativity

**Program provider:** Macalester College & the Minnesota Alliance for Geographic Education (MAGE)
**Fees and Deadlines:** No Fee. Visit website for details.

**Contact Information:**
Website: http://lt.umn.edu/image/student-enrichment/
Email: pthompson_burke@hotmail.com
Phone: (651) 696-6731
Fax: (651) 696-6116
Mailing Address: Penny Thompson-Burke
Macalester College, Geography Department
1600 Grand Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105

**MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS LEAGUE**
Grades 9–12
**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions
Schools send students to five meets in their geographic region for both individual and team competitions. Standings by geographic region, for both individual and team competitions. Top teams in geographic regions and top 50 scoring students participate in a state tournament. Top individuals in state are invited to join the All-Star Team that represents Minnesota in a national competition. Awards are given to individuals and teams.

**Academic skills:** Problem solving, critical thinking and teamwork

**Program provider:** Augsburg College
**Fees and Deadlines:** $500 per school team (unlimited students). Individual students may participate if school does not have a team, cost $100. Registration deadline: Oct. 15, 2013; Meet dates November 2013–February 2014. State tournament March 10, 2014. All State Math Team competes at American Regions Mathematics League (ARML) competition in Iowa the first weekend in June.

**Contact Information:**
Website: www.mnmathleague.org
Email: mathleague@augsburg.edu
Phone: (612) 330-1788
Fax: (612) 330-1509
Mailing Address: Dana Koletar
MN State High School Mathematics League
C/o Augsburg College
Campus Box 190 – 2211 Riverside Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55454

**MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ESSAY CONTEST**
Grade 12
**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions
This contest provides Minnesota high school seniors with an opportunity to compete for scholarships by analyzing and taking a position on a current topic relevant to Minnesota’s judicial system.

**Academic skills:** Writing, research, analyzing, synthesizing and citing

**Program provider:** Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society

**Contact Information:**
Website: www.mnscourthistory.org
Email: kmcbride@meagher.com
Phone: (612) 347-9153 or (612) 596-4010
Fax: (612) 877-3047 or (612) 339-0981
Mailing Address: Kate McBride
33 S. 6th Street, Suite 4400
Minneapolis, MN 55402
MINNESOTA THINKING CAP QUIZ BOWL & AMERICA ANSWERS INTERNET QUIZ BOWL
Grades 5–6, 7–8
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
Fun, scholastic in-school computer competitions. All quizzes are self-scoring, computer contests of 100 multiple-choice questions. Areas covered include math, geography, government, sports, spelling, science, literature, language arts, history, general information and just plain fun trivia. The number of students on the team is up to the teacher—no limits. Schools may form as many teams as desired. There are two chances to answer each question correctly. Points are awarded based on how fast teams answer as well as on accuracy. Therefore, teams who do well usually are teams who can come up with a consensus answer quickly. An adult is needed to monitor but NO adult help can be given. There are fall Minnesota contests and spring nationwide contests called America Answers. See the website for full details.
Academic skills: Factual recall, problem solving, critical thinking, research, teamwork, leadership development, time/budget management and verbal reasoning
Program provider: Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl
Fees and Deadlines: Check website for entry forms, info, fees and deadlines.
Contact Information:
Website: www.thinkingcapquizbowl.com
Email: thinkingcap5@gmail.com
Phone: (515) 278-5097
Fax: (888) 571-4817
Mailing Address: Shirley Kimble
4220 Park Hill Circle
Urbandale, IA 50322

MINNESOTA YOUTH INSTITUTE PROGRAM
Grades 9–12
Program Category: Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions
The Minnesota Youth Institute is a one-day immersion experience in the spring of each year on the University of Minnesota’s St. Paul Campus. In addition, the entry point for a three-tiered competitive process for the Global Youth Institute, participating student delegates present findings from their five-page research paper to faculty and industry experts on critical aspects of food security. The program also exposes high school students to the array of majors and career fields within the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, that would prepare them to work on global food issues. Participating students must have a mentor teacher working with them on the paper. Six finalists from the Minnesota Youth Institute will move onto the Global Youth Institute in Des Moines.
Academic skills: Problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, interdisciplinary, research, global citizenship, science, social studies, writing
Fees and Deadlines: No fee. Visit website for registration details.
Contact Information:
Website: http://z.umn.edu/mnyi
Email: ellin024@umn.edu
Phone: (612) 624-6280
Fax: (612) 625-8737
Mailing Address: Kay Ellingson
College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences
190 Coffey Hall
1420 Eckles Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM
Grades 9–12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
This program gives students an insider’s look at the American legal system, while helping them develop strong critical thinking, communication and teamwork skills. A volunteer attorney works with each team of 8–12 students to prepare for simulated trials held in actual courtrooms around the state.
Academic skills: Critical thinking, problem solving, public speaking and teamwork
Program provider: Minnesota State Bar Association
Contact Information:
Website: www.mnbar.org/mocktrial
Email: kbasting@mnbar.org
Phone: (612) 278-6306 or (800) 882-6722
Fax: (612) 333-4927
Mailing Address: Kim Basting
Minnesota State Bar Association
600 Nicollet Mall, #380
Minneapolis, MN 55402

MOODY’S MEGA MATH CHALLENGE
Grades 11–12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
Spotlights applied mathematics as a powerful problem-solving tool and as a viable and exciting profession to high school students. Teams that are judged to have submitted the best solution papers receive special recognition in the form of tuition scholarships for college education.
Academic skills: Math modeling, computer programming, research and writing skills
Program provider: Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and The Moody’s Foundation
Fees and Deadlines: No fees. Registration opens in November.
Next Challenge will be held March 8–9, 2014. Visit website for deadlines.

**Contact Information:**
Website: http://m3challenge.siam.org
Email: m3challenge@siam.org
Phone: (267) 350-6368 or (215) 350-6388
Fax: (215) 386-7999

**Mailing Address:**
Michelle Montgomery
Moody's Mega Math Challenge
C/O SIAM
3600 Market Street, 6th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104

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**MSHSL DEBATE**
 Grades 10–12
**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions

**Program provider:** MSHSL
**Fees and Deadlines:** Registration fee of $80. Deadline for registration is December.

**Contact Information:**
Website: www.mshsl.org
Email: cfranson@mshsl.org
Phone: (763) 560-2262
Fax: (763) 569-0499

**Mailing Address:**
Chris Franson
MSHSL
2100 Freeway Blvd.
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

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**MSHSL MUSIC**
 Grades 10–12
**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions

**Program provider:** MSHSL
**Fees and Deadlines:** Registration fee of $80. Deadline for registration is December.

**Contact Information:**
Website: www.mshsl.org
Email: cfranson@mshsl.org
Phone: (763) 560-2262
Fax: (763) 569-0499

**Mailing Address:**
Chris Franson
MSHSL
2100 Freeway Blvd.
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

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**MSHSL ONE ACT PLAY**
 Grades 10–12
**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions

**Program provider:** MSHSL
**Fees and Deadlines:** Registration fee of $80. Deadline for registration is December.

**Contact Information:**
Website: www.mshsl.org
Email: cfranson@mshsl.org
Phone: (763) 560-2262
Fax: (763) 569-0499

**Mailing Address:**
Chris Franson
MSHSL
2100 Freeway Blvd.
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

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**MSHSL SPEECH**
 Grades 10–12
**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions

**Program provider:** MSHSL
**Fees and Deadlines:** Registration fee of $80. Deadline for registration is December.

**Contact Information:**
Website: www.mshsl.org
Email: cfranson@mshsl.org
Phone: (763) 560-2262
Fax: (763) 569-0499

**Mailing Address:**
Chris Franson
MSHSL
2100 Freeway Blvd.
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

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**MSHSL VISUAL ARTS**
 Grades 10–12
**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions

**Program provider:** MSHSL
**Fees and Deadlines:** Registration fee of $80. Deadline for registration is December.

**Contact Information:**
Website: www.mshsl.org
Email: cfranson@mshsl.org
Phone: (763) 560-2262
Fax: (763) 569-0499

**Mailing Address:**
Chris Franson
MSHSL
2100 Freeway Blvd.
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

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**MTEEA SUPER MILEAGE COMPETITION**
 Grades 9–12
**Program Category:** Challenges & Competitions
This program joins classroom learning with imagination, ingenuity and teamwork to produce the most fuel-efficient vehicle. Ideas are tempered with calculation to produce optimum design. Students are in charge of this project from the vehicle’s conception to planning, fabrication and testing.

**Academic skills:** Problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, teamwork, leadership development, global citizenship and time/budget management

**Program Provider:** Minnesota Technology & Engineering Educators Association (MTEEA)
**Fees and Deadlines:** Visit website for fees and dates

**Contact Information:**
Website: http://www.mtea.net/supermileage/smhome.htm
Email: msandell@chisagolakes.k12.mn.us
Phone: (651) 213-2522

**Mailing Address:**
Michael Sandell
Chisago Lakes High School
29400 Olinda Trail
Lindstrom, MN 55045
NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IN MINNESOTA

Grades 6–12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
National History Day is a co-curricular academic fair of papers, exhibits, documentaries, performances and websites developed around an annual theme. The program focuses on academic research, analysis and the effective presentation of ideas. Participating classrooms have access to support from History Day staff and subsidized library field trips for student research.

Students progress from school History Day fairs to regional events and State History Day at the U of M. State winners are eligible to participate in the national contest in Washington, DC. The 2013–14 History Day theme will be “Rights and Responsibilities in History.”

Academic skills: Factual recall, problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, interdisciplinary, research, public speaking, teamwork, time/budget management, analytical writing/thesis development and artistic expression

Program provider: Minnesota Historical Society and the University of Minnesota

Fees and Deadlines: Regional events take place in March and registration fees begin at $7 per student. There is no classroom fee to participate and program materials are sent to teachers free of charge.

Contact Information:
Website: www.mnhs.org/historyday
Email: sarah.aschbrenner@mnhs.org
Phone: (651) 259-3489
Fax: (651) 282-2484
Mailing Address: Sarah Aschbrenner
MN Historical Society
345 W. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102

NATIONAL CURRENT EVENTS LEAGUE

Grades 4–12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
Current events competition with four meets per year.
Academic skills: Recall and critical thinking

Program provider: National Current Events League

Fees and Deadlines: $70 for 1 team, $45 for additional teams; Registration October 2013–March 2014

Contact Information:
Website: www.cmleague.org
Email: cmleague@optonline.net
Phone: (631) 584-2016
Fax: (631) 584-6627
Mailing Address: Joseph Quartararo
P.O. Box 2196
St. James, NY 11780

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

Grades 4–8
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
The National Geographic Bee is a nationwide outreach program of the National Geographic Society. It is a classroom and school-based competition. First place prize is a $50,000 college scholarship with additional prizes including scholarships and cash. Principals of eligible schools must register their schools to participate.

Program provider: National Geographic Bee


Contact Information:
Website: www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee
Phone: (202) 828-6659
Mailing Address: Bee Office
National Geographic Society
1145 17th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

NATIONAL LANGUAGE ARTS LEAGUE

Grades 2–12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
National language arts contest that takes place in the classroom. Five levels: grade 2, grades 3–4, 5–6, 7–9, 10–12. Questions based on spelling, vocabulary, reading comprehension, analogies and grammar.

Academic skills: Recall and critical thinking

Program provider: National Language Arts League

Fees and Deadlines: $95 for two teams, $45 for additional teams; Registration October 2013–February 2014; Event April 21–May 2, 2014

Contact Information:
Website: www.cmleague.org
Email: cmleague@optonline.net
Phone: (631) 584-2016
Fax: (631) 584-6627
Mailing Address: Joseph Quartararo
P.O. Box 2196
St. James, NY 11780

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY CHALLENGE

Grades 2–12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
National geography contest that takes place in the classroom. Five levels: grade 2, grades 3–4, 5–6, 7–9, 10–12.
Academic skills: Recall and critical thinking

Program provider: National Geography Challenge

Fees and Deadlines: One team $70, additional teams $45; Registration October 2013–February 2014; Event: April 21–May 2, 2014

Contact Information:
Website: www.cmleague.org
Email: cmleague@optonline.net
Phone: (631) 584-2016
Fax: (631) 584-6627
Mailing Address: Joseph Quartararo
P.O. Box 2196
St. James, NY 11780

NATIONAL CURRENT EVENTS LEAGUE

Grades 4–12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
Current events competition with four meets per year.
Academic skills: Recall and critical thinking

Program provider: National Current Events League

Fees and Deadlines: $70 for 1 team, $45 for additional teams; Registration October 2013–March 2014

Contact Information:
Website: www.cmleague.org
Email: cmleague@optonline.net
Phone: (631) 584-2016
Fax: (631) 584-6627
Mailing Address: Joseph Quartararo
P.O. Box 2196
St. James, NY 11780

NATIONAL LANGUAGE ARTS LEAGUE

Grades 2–12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
National language arts contest that takes place in the classroom. Five levels: grade 2, grades 3–4, 5–6, 7–9, 10–12. Questions based on spelling, vocabulary, reading comprehension, analogies and grammar.

Academic skills: Recall and critical thinking

Program provider: National Language Arts League

Fees and Deadlines: $95 for two teams, $45 for additional teams; Registration October 2013–February 2014; Event April 21–May 2, 2014

Contact Information:
Website: www.cmleague.org
Email: cmleague@optonline.net
Phone: (631) 584-2016
Fax: (631) 584-6627
Mailing Address: Joseph Quartararo
P.O. Box 2196
St. James, NY 11780
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATIONAL SCIENCE LEAGUE</th>
<th>NOBEL CONFERENCE 49</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grades 2–12</td>
<td>Ages: High school to adult</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Program Category:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Challenges &amp; Competitions</td>
<td>Conferences &amp; Institutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>National science contest that takes place in the classroom. Five levels: grade 2, grades 3–4, 5–6, 7–9, 10–12. Questions based on both factual knowledge and understanding of scientific concepts and processes.</td>
<td>Nobel Conference 49 — The Universe at its Limits. Western science has roots in ancient Greece, where two seemingly opposite lines of inquiry began over 2,000 years ago. The first was astronomy, which has looked outward to examine the large-scale structure of the Universe. The second was the study of “inside” matter, which began with the concept of the atom but has reached the realm of subatomic particles and the fundamental forces in nature. In the 20th century, astronomy gave us Big Bang cosmology, a theory of the origin and evolution of an expanding Universe. At the same time, subatomic physics offered the Standard Model of the constituents of energy and matter that make up that Universe. Along the way, several crucial discoveries have shown us that these two seemingly opposite limits of the very large and the very small are intimately connected with each other. At Nobel Conference 49, “The Universe at its Limits,” we will consider recent discoveries about the origin, constituents, and evolution of the Universe and contemplate both their scientific and their philosophical implications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic skills: Recall and critical thinking</td>
<td>Academic skills: Creativity and critical thinking</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Program provider:</strong> National Science League</td>
<td><strong>Program provider:</strong> Gustavus Adolphus College Nobel Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fees and Deadlines:</strong> $95 for two teams; $45 for additional teams; Registration October 2013–February 2014; Event April 21–May 2, 2012.</td>
<td><strong>Fees and Deadlines:</strong> The 49th Nobel Conference held Oct. 1-2, 2013. Reserved Section Tickets: $115, General Admission Tickets: $70, Delegation Tickets: $50 for a block of 10 tickets, Buffet Lunch: $12.50/per day, Closing Banquet: $30.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact Information:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Contact Information:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.cmleague.org">www.cmleague.org</a></td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.gustavus.edu/nobelconference">www.gustavus.edu/nobelconference</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:cmleague@optonline.net">cmleague@optonline.net</a></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:marketing@gustavus.edu">marketing@gustavus.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: (631) 584-2016</td>
<td>Phone: (507) 933-7520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: (631) 584-6627</td>
<td>Fax: (507) 933-6147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mailing Address:</strong> Joseph Quartararo</td>
<td><strong>Mailing Address:</strong> Nobel Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 2196</td>
<td>Gustavus Adolphus College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. James, NY 11780</td>
<td>800 W. College Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Peter, MN 56082</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATIONAL SOCIAL STUDIES LEAGUE</th>
<th>NATIONAL SPANISH EXAM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grades 2–12</td>
<td>Grades 7–12; Immersion schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Category:</strong> Challenges &amp; Competitions</td>
<td><strong>Program Category:</strong> Challenges &amp; Competitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National social studies contest that takes place in the classroom. Five levels: Grade 2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–9, 10–12. Questions based on American studies, geography, government and world history.</td>
<td>There is an exam for each level, 1–6. Be sure to do the practice exams on the following website: <a href="http://nationalspanishexam.org">http://nationalspanishexam.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic skills: Recall and critical thinking</td>
<td>Academic skills: Be a Spanish student!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program provider:</strong> National Social Studies League</td>
<td><strong>Program provider:</strong> The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fees and Deadlines:</strong> $95 for 2 teams, $45 for additional teams; R: October 2013–February 2014; Event April 21–May 2, 2014</td>
<td><strong>Fees and Deadlines:</strong> Please see website for fees and deadlines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact Information:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Contact Information:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.cmleague.org">www.cmleague.org</a></td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://nationalspanishexam.org/">http://nationalspanishexam.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:cmleague@optonline.net">cmleague@optonline.net</a></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:sdwyer@csbsju.edu">sdwyer@csbsju.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: (631) 584-2016</td>
<td>Phone: (651) 683-1700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: (631) 584-6627</td>
<td>Mailing Address: Sean Dwyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mailing Address:</strong> Joseph Quartararo</td>
<td>Visitation High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 2196</td>
<td>2455 Visitation Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. James, NY 11780</td>
<td>Mendota Heights, MN 55120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY MIDWEST ACADEMIC TALENT SEARCH (NUMATS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grades 3–9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Category:</strong> Classroom Enrichment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMATS is an opportunity for students to take above-level tests, such as EXPLORE, ACT or SAT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic skills: Recall, problem solving, critical thinking and writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fees and Deadlines:</strong> Visit website for details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact Information:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats/">www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:bkeilt@district16.org">bkeilt@district16.org</a> or <a href="mailto:ctd@northwestern.edu">ctd@northwestern.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: (763) 795-6686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mailing Address:</strong> Bill Keilty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Services Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1415 81st Ave. NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Lake Park, MN 55432</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
POETRY OUT LOUD, MINNESOTA STATE COMPETITION
Grades 9–12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
Through Poetry Out Loud, high school students learn about great poetry through memorization, performance and competition. It is a fun, participatory way to teach poetry and meet English/language arts requirements. At the state level, the winner will receive $200 and an all-expense paid trip with an adult chaperone to Washington, D.C. The winner’s school will receive $500 for the purchase of poetry books. The runner-up will receive $100 and their school will receive $200 for the purchase of poetry books. At the national level, students compete for $50,000 in college scholarships; the national champion receives a $20,000 college scholarship. All participants past the school level receive prizes for participating, which vary each year based on donations. Typically students receive poetry books and other poetry-related gifts.
Academic skills: Mastering public speaking skills, building self-confidence and learning about literary heritage
Program provider: Minnesota State Arts Board in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation
Fees and Deadlines: Free, registration in the fall, please check website for details
Contact Information:
Website: www.arts.state.mn.us/other/poetry.htm
Email: constance.skildum@arts.state.mn.us
Phone: (651) 215-1617
Fax: (651) 215-1602
Mailing Address: Connie Skildum
400 Sibley St. #200
St. Paul, MN 55101

PROMISING YOUNG WRITERS PROGRAM
Grade 8
Program Category: Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions
The Promising Young Writers Program was established to stimulate and recognize students’ writing talents and to emphasize the importance of writing skills among eighth-grade students. Students who are eighth-graders in the 2013–2014 academic school year are eligible to be nominated for the Promising Young Writers program. Students must be nominated by their teachers. All nominees from the same school must have the same nominating teacher. One nominee per form. To request the complete brochure by mail, including the impromptu topic and address information for state coordinators, send request to: pyw@ncte.org.
Academic skills: Writing, creativity and critical thinking
Program provider: National Council of Teachers of English
Fees and Deadlines: Check the website for fees and deadlines.
Contact Information:
Website: www.ncte.org/awards/student/pyw
Email: cstewart@ncte.org
Phone: (217) 278-3663
Fax: (217) 278-3761
Mailing Address: Carrie Stewart
NCTE
1111 W. Kenyon Road
Urbana, IL 61801

SCHOLARS OF DISTINCTION AWARD PROGRAM
Grades 9–12
Program Category: Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions, Leadership Development
This program recognizes high school students who have demonstrated expert or highly accomplished levels of performance in social studies, leadership, mathematics, science, STEM, or theater arts. Students may pursue one or more area of focus throughout all or part of their K-12 education.
Academic skills: Factual recall, problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity, interdisciplinary, research, public speaking, leadership development, time/budget management and artistic expression.
Program provider: Minnesota Department of Education
Fees and Deadlines: No fees. Deadlines, scoring rubrics and project consultants are listed on the website.
Contact Information:
Website: http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/StuSuc/ScholarRecog/ScholarsDistinct/index.html
Email: Wendy.Behrens@state.mn.us
Phone: (651) 582-9786
Fax: (651) 582-8517
Mailing Address: Wendy A. Behrens
Minnesota Department of Education
1500 Hwy 36 W
Roseville, MN 55113

SCHOOL CHESS ASSOCIATION
Grades K–12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
In existence since 1969, the School Chess Association sponsors tournaments, matches, instruction, camps and other activities. Each year the School Chess Association holds an annual statewide tournament for grades K–6 and another section for the Lawrence Lampert Memorial Tournament, which is open to students in grades 7–12 as well as adults. The final tournament of the year is the Tournament of Champions, which takes the top 16 players in both primary and elementary sections of the statewide tournament to compete in a United States Chess Federation (USCF) rated tournament. The winner of the primary and elementary sections will earn the title of School Chess Association Primary and Elementary Champion. All 32 players receive a special walnut plaque commemorating their participation. Students learn a lifetime activity. School Chess Association has widened its mission to include summer chess camps and to help schools start a chess club in their building. The Association sponsors tournaments, matches, instruction, camps and other activities. Each year the School Chess Association holds an annual statewide tournament for grades K–6 and another section for the Lawrence Lampert Memorial Tournament, which is open to students in grades 7–12 as well as adults. The final tournament of the year is the Tournament of Champions, which takes the top 16 players in both primary and elementary sections of the statewide tournament to compete in a United States Chess Federation (USCF) rated tournament. The winner of the primary and elementary sections will earn the title of School Chess Association Primary and Elementary Champion. All 32 players receive a special walnut plaque commemorating their participation. Students learn a lifetime activity. School Chess Association has widened its mission to include summer chess camps and to help schools start a chess club in their building.
Academic skills: Problem solving, critical and analytical thinking
Program provider: School Chess Association
Fees and Deadlines: Call for fees and dates, or check the website for more information.
Contact Information:
Website: www.schoolchess.org
Email: lorene@schoolchess.org
Phone: (763) 593-1168
Fax: (763) 541-9293
Mailing Address: Lorene Lampert
5901 Laurel Ave., #134
Golden Valley, MN 55416
SKILLSUSA MINNESOTA
Grades 9–12
Program Category: Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions, Conferences & Institutes, Leadership Development

The SkillsUSA Championships is a showcase of career and technical education students. This conference will have over 77 hands-on different trade, technical and leadership competitions for the students in competitive events. Students work against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in occupations like automotive, carpentry, precision machining, medical assisting and culinary arts to name a few. Contests are run with the help of industry, trade associations and labor organizations, and test competency areas set by industry. Leadership contestants will demonstrate skills including extemporaneous speaking and conducting meetings by parliamentary procedure. Competitors who win in a contest are offered the opportunity to represent Minnesota at the National Leadership & Skills Conference. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives, working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. It helps each student excel. SkillsUSA is a national nonprofit organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations.

Academic skills: Problem solving, critical thinking, public speaking, teamwork, leadership development and global citizenship

Program provider: Minnesota Department of Education, SkillsUSA Minnesota

Fees and Deadlines: Visit the website for details.

Contact Information:
Website: www.mnskillsusa.org
Email: skillsusaminnesota@comcast.net
Phone: (763) 560-1932
Fax: (763) 560-1936
Mailing Address: Jennifer Polz, Executive Director
SkillsUSA Minnesota
P.O. Box 29286
Minneapolis, MN 55429

THE STOCK MARKET GAME™
Grades 4–12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions

The Stock Market Game is an online investing simulation that is designed to teach more than just business and math. This experiential learning tool is used to teach social studies, language arts, teamwork, financial literacy and economics. During class or after school, this engaging activity can be used once a week or every day. Students work in teams of up to five participants and invest a virtual $100,000 in stocks and mutual funds.

Academic skills: Problem solving, critical thinking, interdisciplinary and teamwork

Program provider: BestPrep

Fees and Deadlines: $20 per team, scholarships available; Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 sessions; Registration opens September 2013.

Contact Information:
Website: www.stockmarketgame.org
Email: smg@bestprep.org
Phone: (763) 233-6328
Fax: (763) 398-0391
Mailing Address: Ann Benson
BestPrep
7100 Northland Circle N., Suite 402
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

TOSHIBA/NSTA EXPLORAVISION AWARDS
Grades K–3, 4–6, 7–9, 10–12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions

ExploraVision is a competition for all students in grades K–12 enrolled full-time in a public, private or home school. It is designed to encourage students to combine their imagination with their knowledge of science and technology to explore visions of the future. Teams of students select a technology, research how it works and why it was invented, and then project how that technology may change in the future. They must then identify what breakthroughs are required for their vision to become a reality, and describe the positive and negative consequences of their technology on society.

Academic skills: Problem solving, critical thinking, creativity and cooperation

Program provider: Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision

Fees and Deadlines: ExploraVision entries are due Jan. 31, 2014.

Contact Information:
Website: www.exploravision.org
Email: exploravision@nsta.org
Phone: 1-800-EXPLOR9
Mailing Address: Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision
1840 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201
U OF M TALENTED YOUTH MATH PROGRAM
Grades 5–12
Program Category: Classroom Enrichment
An accelerated math program, UMTYMP has two components:
A two-year high school component covering Algebra I and II, Geometry, and Math Analysis, and a three-year college component starting with two years of honors Calculus.
Academic skills: Analytic ability and mathematical skills
Fees and Deadlines: Registration for the entrance exam begins in January for admission the following Fall. Each year over 600 students test for under 150 positions in the incoming Algebra course. Check the website for exam registration forms and exam fees.
Contact Information:
Website: www.mathcep.umn.edu/umtymp
Email: mathcep@umn.edu
Phone: (612) 625-2861
Fax: (612) 612-1150
Mailing Address: UMTYMP - MathCEP
4 Vincent Hall/U of M
206 Church St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

U.S. NATIONAL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD
Grades 9–12
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
USNCO is a recognition program that identifies outstanding high school chemistry students. It is sponsored by the American Chemical Society. More than 10,000 students participate in a series of qualifying events to select the four representatives of the U.S. to the International Chemistry Olympiad.
Academic skills: Problem solving, chemistry and mathematical skills
Program provider: American Chemical Society
Fees and Deadlines: No fees. LE: March; NE: April; AW: June; IE: July (Location changes every year).
Contact Information:
Website: www.acs.org
Email: USNCO@acs.org
Phone: (202) 872-6328
Fax: (202) 833-7732
Mailing Address: Cecilia Hernandez
American Chemical Society
1155 16th St. NW, Room 834
Washington, D.C. 20036

U.S. SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM
Grades 11–12
Program Category: Awards & Recognitions, Leadership Development
Two high school juniors or seniors will spend a week studying the legislative process in Washington, DC and receive a $5,000 scholarship for higher education.
Academic skills: Leadership, critical thinking and cooperation
Program provider: Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)
Fees and Deadlines: Contact MDE for dates.
Contact Information:
Website: www.ussenateyouth.org
Email: paul.hoffman@state.mn.us
Phone: (651) 634-2738
Fax: (651) 582-8730
Mailing Address: Paul Hoffman
Minnesota Department of Education
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113

WALKER ART CENTER ART TODAY TOURS
Grades K–12
Program Category: Classroom Enrichment
Thematic interactive tours exploring contemporary art through Walker’s permanent collection and special exhibitions
Academic skills: Critical thinking, creativity and literacy
Program provider: Walker Art Center
Fees and Deadlines: Tours must be scheduled at least four weeks in advance. Tour fees are from $3–$6 per student, depending on type of tour requested.
Contact Information:
Website: www.walkerart.org
Email: susan.rotilie@walkerart.org
Phone: (612) 375-7614
Fax: (612) 375-5802
Mailing Address: Susan Rotilie
1750 Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55403

WORDMASTERS CHALLENGE
Grades 3–8
Program Category: Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Students use vocabulary they have studied in advance to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. Two levels of difficulty are offered at each grade level (Blue & Gold). Competitions are held three times per year at each participating school. The program aligns perfectly with CCSS ELA-Literacy standards for Vocabulary Acquisition and Use in Grades 3-8. Now in our 27th year, nearly 3,000 schools and more than 125,000 students participate annually!
Academic skills: Critical thinking, vocabulary and verbal reasoning
Program provider: WordMasters, LLC
Fees and Deadlines: $95 per team (no limit on number of students per team). Enrollment deadline is Sept. 30, 2013. Challenge meets take place in November 2013, February and April 2014 (see website for details).
Contact Information:
Website: www.wordmasterschallenge.com
Email: lisa.kennedy@wordmasterschallenge.com
Phone: (317) 800-6229
Mailing Address: Lisa Kennedy
WordMasters, LLC
P.O. Box 20608
Indianapolis, IN 46220
**WORDWRIGHT CHALLENGE**

Grades 9–12

*Program Category: Challenges & Competitions*

The WordWright Challenge is a national reading competition for students in grades 9–12 that requires analytical reading of many kinds of prose and poetry. It emphasizes perceptive interpretation, sensitivity to language and an appreciation of style. More than 54,000 students from some of the best public and private high schools in 46 states (and 4 foreign nations) participated last year.

**Academic skills:** Close reading, analysis and interpretation

**Program provider:** WordWright

**Fees and Deadlines:** The fee for enrolling a single grade in either the Blue or the Gold Division for one year is $101. There is a benefit for enrolling multiple grades. The fee for enrolling all four high school grades, two in the Blue and two in the Gold, is $372. You can enroll both your 9th and your 10th graders in the Blue Division, or both your 11th and your 12th graders in the Gold Division for $186. Or you can enroll two grades in one division and a single grade in the other Division for $287. Meets are held October, December, February and April. The enrollment deadline is Sept. 30, 2013.

**Contact Information:**

*Website:* http://www.wordwrightchallenge.com

*Email:* n.mcgrath213@gmail.com

*Phone:* (201) 327-4201

*Fax:* (201) 327-6219

*Mailing Address:* Nancy McGrath

213 E. Allendale Ave.

Allendale, NJ 07401

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**YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT MODEL ASSEMBLY SESSION**

Grades 8–12

*Program Category: Conferences & Institutes, Leadership Development*

This program focuses on state government: Students form delegations in local YMCAs and high schools. With adult advisors, students research and discuss state issues, draft legislation and develop legal opinions. The culmination of the program is the four-day model government at the State Capitol and conference facility in the Twin Cities.

**Academic skills:** Critical thinking, public speaking, cooperation and leadership development

**Program provider:** Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government

**Fees and Deadlines:** See website or contact the YIG State Office at (612) 823-1381

**Contact Information:**

*Website:* www.mnyig.org

*Email:* yig@ymcatwincities.org

*Phone:* (612) 823-1381

*Fax:* (612) 676-7701

*Mailing Address:* Andre Anthony, State Program Director

YMCA

1801 University Ave. SE

Minneapolis, MN 55414

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**WORLD SAVVY CHALLENGE**

Grades 6–12

*Program Category: Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment*

World Savvy prepares students to thrive as global citizens. In our World Savvy youth program we provide opportunities for middle and high school students to develop global competency through project-based learning, collaborative problem solving, and media and arts exploration. From 2013-16, students will explore the theme of Population & Progress. Our program also provides teachers with the resources, curriculum, professional development and support to embed this program into their classrooms. For more details, be sure to visit our website: www.worldsavvy.org

**Academic skills:** Research, teamwork, critical thinking, geography, current events and history

**Program provider:** World Savvy

**Fees and Deadlines:** Registration deadline is Nov. 10, 2013.

**Contact Information:**

*Website:* www.worldsavvy.org

*Email:* brian@worldsavvy.org

*Phone:* (612) 564-6939

*Fax:* (888) 452-0993

*Mailing Address:* Brian K. Green

World Savvy: Think Beyond Your Border

1304 University Avenue NE, Suite 307

Minneapolis, MN 55413

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**YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT MODEL UNITED NATIONS**

Grades 7–12

*Program Category: Conferences & Institutes, Leadership Development*

Model UN gives students the opportunity to gain an international outlook on issues that affect the way we live, while they play a role as an international diplomat. Student delegates form alliances, debate resolutions and seek solutions to world problems, all from another country’s perspective. Focus is placed on diplomacy and cooperation among diversity of options and world views.

**Academic skills:** Critical thinking, public speaking, self-confidence, self-reliance, citizenship and leadership development

**Program provider:** Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government

**Fees and Deadlines:** See website or contact the YIG State Office at (612) 823-1381

**Contact Information:**

*Website:* www.mnyig.org

*Email:* yig@ymcatwincities.org

*Phone:* (612) 823-1381

*Fax:* (612) 676-7701

*Mailing Address:* Andre Anthony, State Program Director

YMCA

1801 University Ave. SE

Minneapolis, MN 55414
**YOUTH ENERGY SUMMIT (YES!)**

Grades 7–12

Program Category: Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment, Conferences & Institutes, Leadership Development

YES! is a team-oriented youth program that uses hands-on, experiential learning and energy action projects to address energy opportunities and issues in rural Minnesota communities. Students are the energy of the YES!, with teams in grades 7–12 that are guided by local adult coaches representing schools or communities. YES! provides a unique opportunity for students to learn about energy issues and opportunities by engaging directly in school and community efforts that lead to dramatic demonstrations of renewable energy technology, energy conservation and efficiency, and expose students to how science, technology, engineering, and math is applied in real life. Since inception, the program has engaged more than 1,000 youth, 400 businesses and 70,000 community members, and has affected more than 30,000 additional students. The program is a partnership of Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center and the Southwest Initiative Foundation.

Academic skills: Problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, interdisciplinary, research, public speaking, teamwork, leadership development, environmental stewardship, time/budget management, verbal reasoning and artistic expression

Program provider: Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center

Fees and Deadlines: $300 per team. Applications preferred by Sept. 15 of each school year. See www.youthenergysummit.org for more details.

Contact Information:
Website: www.youthenergysummit.org
Email: sayyes@youthenergysummit.org
Phone: (320) 354-5894
Mailing Address: Jonathan Morales, YES! Coordinator
12718 10th Street NE
Spicer, MN  56288

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Not Active This year:
Minnesota Student Inventor’s Congress

No Longer Available:
Knowledge Master Open

**Minnesota State Spelling Bee** – The state spelling bee is no longer held; various regional spelling bees exist. Visit www.spellingbee.com.

**Water is Life Art Contest** – Regional event still takes place in south central Minnesota. Visit www.mnscsc.org for info on the newly named Work for Water Art Contest & Seminar.
ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

MINNESOTA ACADEMIC LEAGUE COUNCIL

The Academic League Council was first created in 1988. It was re-established as the Minnesota Academic League Council in 2006 to work in cooperation with Synergy & Leadership Exchange. The council consists of volunteers representing academic challenge coordinators, students, educators and education stakeholder groups who meet regularly to review and endorse academic enrichment programs that are available on a statewide basis. Synergy provides administrative support for the council and creates and publishes the *Reach for the Stars* catalogue, which lists programs and activities endorsed by the Minnesota Academic League Council. Please refer to the Synergy website www.synergyexchange.org for program/activity endorsement criteria and more information on the Minnesota Academic League.

ETHICAL CITIZENS FOR MINNESOTA’S FUTURE

Citizens for an Ethical Minnesota is a statewide movement inspiring and connecting individuals and organizations with practices that encourage thoughtful and ethical responses to everyday situations. It provides training, resources and recognition to strengthen the character and leadership of all Minnesotans. The Minnesota Ethical Leadership Awards (MELA) are presented each year to recognize excellence in programs developing good character and ethical leadership in Minnesotans. For more information or to submit a MELA nomination, visit www.citizens4mn.org.

MINNESOTA SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER & PROMISING PRACTICES AWARDS

Minnesota Schools of Character and Promising Practices Program offers a path to school improvement by providing a proven framework, an opportunity for self-assessment, professional feedback and models of excellence. Schools and districts may receive recognition for reaching standards of excellence exemplifying the Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education or detailing a single character education practice. Training, professional development and resources are also provided as part of the program. Synergy & Leadership Exchange (Synergy) administers these programs in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Character Education Partnership (CEP). For additional information on these programs, including ways to submit applications and/or to view award-winning promising practices, visit the Synergy website.
THE WEM OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARDS

The WEM Outstanding Educator Awards Program was created in 1998 by the WEM Foundation in support of educators, administrators and academic coaches and their important role in helping all students achieve academically, and seeks to bring recognition to the often “unsung heroes” who meet the challenges of teaching in a variety of settings. Synergy & Leadership Exchange (Synergy) administers the award program on behalf of the WEM Foundation.

Each state honoree receives an unrestricted $15,000 gift and crystal apple award. In addition, regional honorees receive an unrestricted $1,500 gift, trophy and the opportunity to compete in the state competition the following year.

Honorees are chosen in each of the following categories:

- **Teacher Achievement Awards** – recognizing exemplary teachers who support, inspire and assist students to attain greater learning as evidenced by student achievement.

- **Academic Challenge Coach Awards** – recognizing classroom teachers who are exemplary coaches of student teams that participate and compete in academic challenges endorsed by the Minnesota Academic League Council.

- **Ethics in Education Awards** – recognizing exemplary educators or administrators who embody ethical behavior and promote ethical development for students through classroom or school activities, policies or curriculum.

- **Excellence in Education Award** – A lifetime achievement award, recognizing superior contributions of educators whose leadership and dedication inspire a spirit of learning in students of all ages, backgrounds and abilities outside the traditional education system and classroom. This award is for educators outside the traditional classroom and nominees do not need to be licensed teachers. Awards are not given on an annual basis.

For additional information on the educator awards program, including ways to submit a nomination, visit the Synergy website: www.synergyexchange.org. Students, parents and educators are encouraged to submit nominations at any time.

LIFETOUCHE

For nearly eighty years, Lifetouch has been trusted to provide a photographic record of the growth and maturing of children and families across the nation. Lifetouch is represented in American cities and towns by more than 17,000 employee owners and is a proud partner of national education associations, including the American Association of School Administrators, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the National Association of Secondary School Principals and National PTA.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING TEACHING AND LEARNING

We all recognize the value of feeling good about the work we do. Public recognition of our accomplishments often motivates us to set higher goals, and often encourages others to do the same. For the partnering organizations behind the Reach for the Stars catalogue, recognizing outstanding teaching and learning is just as important as promoting academic excellence at all levels. At Synergy & Leadership Exchange, it is our pleasure to work with sponsors and partner with schools and districts to help bring public recognition to deserving students and educators.