

National Academic League®



Congratulations to National Champion Carson Middle School, North Allegheny School District, Pittsburgh Area Schools



Congratulations to Carson Middle School from the North Allegheny School District of the Pittsburgh Area NAL®. The Carson school fought hard to win their local league championship title, winning two of their regular season games in overtime. This proved to be valuable

training for the tension of the National Tournament. On their trip to the National Championship, Carson defeated Pasadena champion San Jacinto, Charlotte-Mecklenburg's South Charlotte Middle School, Millcreek Jr. High from the Davis School District in Utah, and finally Stapley Jr. High from Mesa, Arizona. The team was coached by Susan Bentz and Chris Ruffalo.

Stapley Jr. High from Mesa, Arizona, Makes Strong Showing In National Tournament

Stapley Jr. High from Mesa, Arizona, met Carson Middle School in the NAL® Championship game on Monday, April 21, 2008. Mesa had already had a great regular season, winning the Mesa league championship and moving on to defeat league champions Inglewood Jr. High from Lake Washington, Lincoln College Prep from Kansas City, and Eisenhower Jr. High from Granite.



As Mesa NAL® Commissioner Gary Carbonneau put it, "Our students represented Mesa with heart, poise, and great intelligence. They have every reason to be proud. Congratulations to the team and to coaches Mary Evans and Cheryl Stone."

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Reminders

Keep in touch with us over the summer at the address & phone number below. Check the website for updates & information about the upcoming season.

National Academic League®
1445 Lakemist Court
Roswell, GA 30075

Phone: 770-998-7833
Fax 888-217-7999

office@
nationalacademicleague.org

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NATIONAL OFFICE NEWS: End Of Season Housekeeping

Please take a moment to do some NAL® housekeeping before the school year wraps up. We appreciate your help—this will make for a smooth start to the 2008-2009 season!

- If you have not already sent your National Tournament Scoresheets and Game Materials back to the National Office, please do so. Remember, all game cards from National Tournament games must be returned to the National Office. Please send them to NAL®, 1445 Lakemist Ct., Roswell, GA 30075
- Participation Fee Invoices have been prepared and distributed for the upcoming season. Invoices were sent to superintendents as well as NAL® Commissioners. A revised price list was attached to the Commissioners' copies. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding these invoices.
- Send any question corrections you have from the 2007-2008 season to the National Office. You can send a marked question card, or an email with the question number and the correction. We appreciate your contributions to maintaining the integrity of the NAL® Question Bank®.
- Send us links to your district or state curriculum, along with links to any practice tests. We will be using this information over the summer to update the NAL® Question Bank®. We would also like a list of literature your students are reading.
- Please send copies of all press coverage from the National Tournament. If possible, send the original newsprint, along with the publication banner with the date.

Congratulations National Tournament High Scorers!

Bracket

Preliminary Bracket

1st Quarter

Dimitri P.
Eisenhower Jr. HS
Granite School District

4th Quarter

Dimitri P.
Eisenhower Jr. HS
Granite School District

Congratulation to these academic athletes who showed grace under pressure throughout National Tournament games. We know that this experience will help them throughout their academic careers and on into their adult lives.

Sweet 16

TIE
Matthew McC.
Wilbur Jr. HS
Wichita School District
David B.
Eisenhower Jr. HS
Granite School District
Dimitri P.
Eisenhower Jr. HS

Dimitri P.
Eisenhower Jr. HS
Granite School District

Great Job Kids!

Elite 8

Elias W.
Lincoln College Prep
Kansas City School District

TIE
Katie B.
Stapley Jr. HS
Mesa School District
Matt W.
Stapley Jr. HS
Mesa School District
Amy Z.
Carson Middle School
N. Allegheny SD, Pitts

Final 4

Katie B.
Stapley Jr. HS
Mesa School District

Katie B.
Stapley Jr. HS
Mesa School District

Championship Game

Joey Z.
Carson MS
North Allegheny SD, Pitts

Katie B.
Stapley Jr. HS
Mesa School District

“TAKE 5” Answers

The following are the answers to the Take 5 Questions on Page 4.

A:Beijing’s Airport Terminal 3 (it is twice the size of the Pentagon).

A:Sun

A:Burma or Myanmar

A:Associative Property (of Addition)

A:Circulatory System

National Conference Held in Atlanta May 2-4

We greatly appreciate the contributions of the attendees at our National Conference, held in Atlanta, Georgia, on May 2 through 4. Though modest in size, we believe the conference will yield large results. Our agenda covered a broad range of topics from reviewing the 2007-2008 season to strategizing about program expansion. It was great to reconnect with old friends and make new acquaintances.



We reviewed some of the major accomplishments of the NAL® this season:

- Creation of the new website, www.nationalacademicleague.org. We will continue to add information and function to this website. Please let us know if you have any suggestions.
- Update of the NAL® Question Bank® database. One of our most valuable assets, the Question Bank® can now be edited, updated, and expanded more easily.
- Input from NAL® participants regarding current curriculum and NCLB requirements. We will continue to keep our questions relevant to students' curriculum and national standards.

Thanks to our participants, we gathered invaluable feedback about how the game is being coached, judged, and played in leagues around the nation. Some of the action items that came out of the conference include:

- Make more practice questions available, including 3rd quarter topics
- Restructure the Study Book to make it more user-friendly
- Include a wider variety of NAL® awards at different price levels; provide pictures of choices
- Pilot a new 3rd quarter scoring format to allow judges to score individual presentation skills.
- Create a 'job description' for NAL® commissioners and a National Tournament checklist.
- Share ideas for improving attendance at NAL® games.
- Facilitate a clearinghouse for used equipment; share information on repair resources.



In addition, several rule changes will be circulated among commissioners for feedback and approval.

This was a great way to wrap up an exciting and revitalizing NAL® season !

NAL® Mastery Certification

The NAL® Mastery Certification® is designed to help participants become proficient in the practices and procedures of the NAL® program. The National Office highly recommends that each league have at least two NAL®-certified judges to officiate during the National Tournament.

Congratulations to the following NAL® Officials who have successfully completed the NAL® Mastery Certification Process.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District
Charlotte, North Carolina

Nancy Betler

LeAnne Conyers

Tonya Grimes

Linda Hagler

Granite School District

Salt Lake City, Utah

Annette Duzett

Darryl Thomas

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

James Patrick Glover

National Academic League®

Unfolding the Future of America's Children

In Georgia:

1445 Lakemist Court
Roswell, GA 30075
Phone: 770-998-7833

In Utah:

1917 South 100 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84105
Phone: 801-487-8088

Email:

office@nationalacademicleague.org

Fax:

888-217-7999

We're on the web:

*www.nationalacademic
league.org*

A Message from the National Commissioner

It was wonderful to reconnect with veterans from the NAL® program at the National Conference earlier this month. With the perspective of years of experience, we were able to take a close look at the accomplishments of the 2007-2008 season as well as lay out some goals for the future.

Among these goals, a key one is GROWTH. After a year of revitalization, we stand poised to recruit new leagues and expand the reach of the NAL®. Won't you take a moment to think of your friends and colleagues who would be interested in being involved in the expansion of this important program? Our current participants are our greatest fans—and one of our most valuable resources when it comes to opportunities to expand. I would love to hear your ideas about how and where you see the NAL® growing. You can email me at delmquist@nationalacademicleague.org or call me at 770-998-7833. I look forward to hearing from you!

*Donna L. Elmquist
President
Terrel H. Bell & Associates*

“TAKE 5” Questions

Test your knowledge and practice your question answering skills with our “Take 5” questions.

Q: Identify the largest building in the world, located in Beijing, China.

Q: State what the prefix *helio* means, from the Greek word *helios*.

Q: Identify the country in which the Irrawady Delta is located. This area was devastated when it was struck by a cyclone in May of 2008.

Q: State the mathematical property that says that $(3 + 5) + 8 = 3 + (5 + 8)$.

Q: Identify the system of the human body that is made up of the heart, arteries, veins, and capillaries.

Looking Ahead...2008-2009 NAL® Season

Mark your calendars—The following is the tentative schedule for the 2008-2009 NAL® season.

NAL® Materials Available for Distribution—
October 1, 2008

NAL® Season of Play—October 15, 2008 through
February 27, 2009

League Champions Determined—February 27,
2009

Terrel H. Bell National Tournament for Academic
Excellence—March 2, 2009 through April 24,
2009

National Conference—May 1-3, 2009