

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
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Avalon School Earns State Champion Honors

Minnesota high school teams competed in the Minnesota Academic Decathlon® State Competition at North Metro Event Center in Shoreview Feb. 19–20.

State championship honors went to Avalon School in St. Paul with a score of 32,547.4. They will represent Minnesota at the United States Academic Decathlon Nationals in Frisco, Texas, April 27–29.

Second place went to Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial with a score of 27,752.9. They have earned a spot at the 2023 USAD Nationals in Division IV. Third place went St. Peter High School with a score of 21,002.9. Hiawatha Collegiate High School earned fourth place with a score of 18,058.5. The third and fourth place teams have the opportunity to participate in the USAD Online Nationals.

At the state event, students received scores for speech, interview and Super Quiz™. The essay test and seven other objective tests were completed online earlier in February.

The event concluded with an awards ceremony and five students performed in a Speech Showcase. This year's Speech Showcase presenters were Rhys Howell and Abby Heil from Avalon High School; Abigail Buffington and Isabelle Wawrzynaik from LCWM; Hayli Glass from St. Peter. Regional. State awards were presented for individual and team accomplishments and for the Super Quiz team champion, Avalon High School.

Academic Decathlon, the premiere national scholastic competition for high school students, was created to provide opportunities for students to experience the challenges of rigorous team and individual academic competition. Each student competes in 10 events: Art, Economics, Essay, Interview, Literature, Math, Music, Science, Social Science and Speech. Students also compete in Super Quiz, an oral quiz-show event that includes questions from six topic areas.

A unique aspect of Academic Decathlon is that it is designed to include students from all academic ability and achievement levels. Each nine-member team consists of three honor students (3.80–4.00 GPA) three scholastic students (3.20–3.799 GPA) and three varsity students (0.00–3.199 GPA). Each team member competes in all of the 10 events against other students in their individual divisions, and team scores are calculated using the top two individual scores from each division.

Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded for individual events and overall scores. The broad base of awards allows for major recognition of academic accomplishment. For a complete list of individual and team winners, please visit the South Central Service Cooperative website www.mnscsc.org/decathlon.

A new theme of study is established every year with topics that are relevant, current and challenging. This year's theme was The American Revolution and the New Nation. Next year's topic will be Technology and Humanity.

Interested in learning more about how to start a Minnesota Academic Decathlon team in your school? Please contact Amy Dosch (507) 386-2966. MNAD offers incentives for new teams, including free curriculum and waived team fees for the first year with a two-year commitment.

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