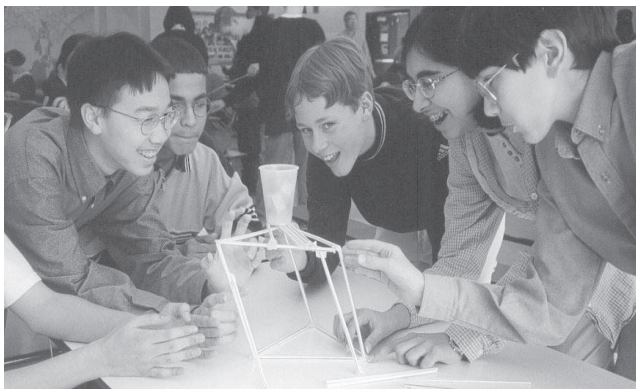


Greater Lawrence Academic Bowl 2009-2010

Greater Lawrence Educational Collaborative

480 Broadway, Methuen, MA 01844
www.glec.org/enrichment



What is the Academic Bowl?

The Greater Lawrence Academic Bowl is an 18-match competition involving more than 300 7th and 8th graders from virtually all the middle schools in Lawrence, Andover, North Andover and Methuen. It was started in 1987 by the Greater Lawrence Educational Collaborative (GLEC) and middle school principals as a means of promoting academic excellence and fostering teamwork and understanding between neighboring communities. Questions reinforce what students are studying in school, give all students a chance to show what they know, and expose students to new information and new ways of thinking and solving problems. Each school has an Academic Bowl advisor

who works with the Academic Bowl Quizmaster and parents to make the tournament a success. This is the 24th year of the tournament.

When and where are the matches? Can parents attend?



Each team has a practice match in mid November and then plays five regular matches approximately once a month from December through March. The matches are played at the participating schools in the morning during school hours. Most schools host one or two matches and travel to other schools for the others. All the match times and

locations are listed and updated on the Academic Bowl website. Parents are encouraged to attend (and take pictures). A final match, Parent Night, run by the Parent Advisory Committee brings all the students and parents together for a fun evening in April. A joint field trip in the spring allows the teams to come together one last time in an academic and social setting. The Academic Bowl Yearbook, a collaborative effort by the parents, documents and commemorates the whole year.

How are the teams formed? We have a unique model.

The Academic Bowl **creates teams by pairing schools**. Each school is paired with a school from another town served by GLEC, which runs the Academic Bowl as well as many other cross-community cooperative educational efforts (such as AppleSeed, AppleSauce, ApplePi magazines). As teammates, the students have opportunities to get to know and work together with other students outside of their towns. The school pairings change each year. Students select a name for their team after they meet their teammates from their partner school and produce a team banner by their first match. This year's team combinations are (Lawrence school listed first): Bellesini & North Andover, Bruce &



Doherty, Frost & CGS, Guilmette and Wood Hill, Leonard and West, Oliver & Tenney, Parthum & Timony, South Lawrence East & North Andover, Wetherbee & St. Augustines.

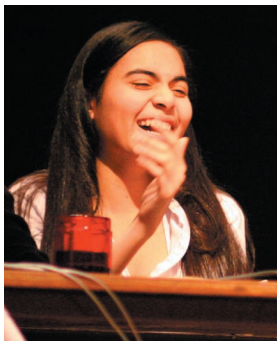


How are the students selected?

Each school has its own criteria and procedure for selecting students. Schools carry a roster of approximately eight 7th graders and eight 8th graders. Student selections are finalized in the fall. Students are expected to keep up their grades to stay on the team, as they will need to miss some classes to participate.

What are the matches like?

Academic Bowl matches have two parts. First, the teams are given three timed hands-on problems to solve. This usually takes place in the cafeteria. A great deal of discussion and brainstorming goes on to reach a better solution than the opposing team. If the first part of the match resembles a laboratory buzzing with enthusiastic scientists, the second part definitely says “quiz show.” In part two, which is played in the auditorium, questions are fired at “contestants” equipped with buzzers and lights. Excitement runs high as students try to be the first on the buzzer with the correct answer.



What do students get from participating?

The students benefit tremendously from the Academic Bowl experience. They enjoy competing (and winning!). They learn a lot and improve their critical and creative thinking skills. They develop leadership, teamwork and self-confidence. There is enough variety to the types of questions asked and skills tested that everyone contributes. And perhaps equally important, the students develop a bond with their teammates that transcends their differences.



How do the students prepare for the matches? Use the website!

Most of the questions reinforce the school curricula and middle school frameworks, so if students prepare well for their classes, they will probably do well in the Academic Bowl. In addition, the organizers of the tournament select other areas to focus on each year and produce study guides and other resources for the students. This year we are focusing on two topics: the **U.S. Government & Constitution** and our **National Parks**. An outline of this year’s matches, study guides and other resources and information will be on the 13 page Academic Bowl website, found under “Enrichment” at www.glec.org. Students should count on spending some time with these materials in order to be prepared for each match. Students should also try to stay up to date with current events.

How can parents get involved? Yes, you get to play at Parent Night!

Here are some of the ways parents can help:

- Join the Parent Advisory Committee (meets once a month -- **first meeting Monday, November 16 at 6:15 p.m.** --see website for details), which produces the Parent Night, raises money for awards and prizes, and helps with publicity.
- Make a financial contribution (check payable to GLEC, 480 Broadway, Methuen, MA 01844 We are 501c3.)
- Take pictures to post in school and to put in the Academic Bowl Yearbook.
- Notify other parents about upcoming matches.
- Help advisors with refreshments when hosting a match.
- Publicize the program in the school and community, translating if necessary.
- See the Academic Bowl parent page for other needs and ways to help.



For more information: www.glec.org

- Go to www.glec.org, position your cursor on “enrichment” and read one of the 13 Academic Bowl pages, which include: News, Overview, Schedule (always kept up to date), Scoring System, Students, Content Outline, Practice Questions & Resources, Match Results & Standings, Teams, Tournament History, Parents, Participating Schools & Advisors, and Kiwanis Youth Summit.
- Contact Mr. James McConaughy, the Academic Bowl Quizmaster and GLEC Enrichment Director at jmcconaughy@glec.org or 978 685-3000 x123

The Academic Bowl is run by the Multicultural Enrichment Program of the Greater Lawrence Educational Collaborative, 480 Broadway, Methuen, MA 01844