



Bitney College Prep

A PUBLIC CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

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BRAIN BUSTER CHALLENGE

Final Team Prep

We are getting ever so much closer. **Saturday, Feb 21st is the day!** Here are a few reminders and expectations.

Your team must come up with a unique name, and will have **a minute or so to introduce yourselves however you wish**. This could be a song, a rap, a dance, whatever. Remember – You are not only competing for the highest score, you are also competing for the coveted Spirit Award! **We need your team names, and the names of all five team members by Friday Feb 6**. Why? We create a program and scoreboard, and prepare a schedule for each team. Team names and team rosters will be final and cannot be changed during the week prior to the event. **Including an alternate on your submitted roster is a really good idea in case of illness or conflict on the big day.**

Note on alternates: Alternates can be part of the team introduction during the opening ceremony. However, they can only participate in any of the challenges if one of the team members is absent. Alternates cannot “rotate” in and out of the various rounds, but are welcome to observe any round - as are parents and other supporters.

We will gather at our campus and begin promptly at 12:30 pm. We urge all teams and their supporters to arrive no later than 12:15. After all introductions and explanations, Round 1 will begin at 1:00 sharp. Teams will follow the schedule in your packet (which will be awaiting you at your table), aided by a student mentor from Bitney. **Please do not open the packet until instructed to do so!** We are located at 135 Joerschke, which is just around the corner from Weiss Bros Nursery, and directly adjacent to Smiley Guys Smokehouse. We'll have people helping with parking.

Sample questions for Science, Math, and History (including questions on the U.S Constitution), can be found by going to our school website **<bitneyprep.net>** and clicking the link to the **Brain Buster Challenge**. You will also find specific debate parameters (a modified Lincoln-Douglas format), and the scoring rubric. A short film shot during the 2010 event is online as well. We are pleased once again to have Superior Court Judge Tom Anderson, and Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Holly Hermansen judge the debate.

About the debate: It would be a really good idea to practice at least once! Coming prepared with opening statements, questions, and anticipated responses is crucial. Proper decorum is key. Speak clearly and loudly enough so everyone in the room can hear you. Be familiar with the process. Member 4 responds to both questions.

The Art and Music bonus round will include the identification of famous works of art and music from several eras and genres. For Geography, put on your world map hat. The remaining three rounds, Physical Challenge, Laughable Limerick, and Problem Solving, are impossible to study for. Expect an intriguing puzzle to solve in each. **The key to success: teamwork and communication.** This is especially so in the Problem Solving round as teamwork counts toward 50% of your score! The teamwork rubric is posted on the Brain Buster page as well.

Don't forget about the Double Points Card. Each team will find the double points card in your packet upon arrival. In any of the rounds except the two bonus rounds (Art/Music and Geography), you may opt to use the card **before** the round begins. Simply hold it up high so the proctor or your team mentor can see and collect it. Use the card strategically during a round you feel particularly strong in. And, just as it sounds, your score for that round will be doubled. Again, you cannot use the card after the round has started, or after you have seen the questions. Once you turn it in the decision is final.

A note on scoring. Most, but not all rounds have ten questions, and thus ten possible points. In some rounds, partial credit is possible. In all rounds however, the points put on the scoreboard will be based on a total possible of 100. Thus if you score 8 out of 10 in History, the scoreboard will show 80 points. There are nine rounds, for a total possible of 900 (1000 with the double points card!).

Everything will be wrapped up by 4:00 pm. We have snacks and drinks for all participants and spectators (including a parent lounge), but it is still a good idea to eat lunch first. If anyone has a question, any type of question; please do not hesitate to call me at the school (477-1235), or send an email to <rjones@bitneyprep.net>.

Still befuddled or new to this event? Don't worry. Call and we can arrange a 20-30 minute briefing with you and your team!

Thanks, good luck to all, and most importantly - **have a great time!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

See you here,

Russ Jones
Director