



PSIA: AN AL-HADI SCHOOL LEGACY

HISTORY OF PSIA AT AL-HADI SCHOOL



Based in Texas, PSIA is among the most comprehensive extracurricular academic programs in the nation. It holds competitions annually in districts throughout the state of Texas. District winners proceed to participate in the State Level competition in Fort Worth, TX.

Since 2005, Al-Hadi School has participated in this rigorous competition, and our students have won multiple awards at both District and State level.

ABOUT PSIA

The PSIA Mission: To inspire private, parochial, charter, and homeschool student achievement through academic competition.

With 19 contest categories covering a wide range of disciplines, PSIA is an exciting opportunity for students in grades 1 through 8 to engage in academic competition with their peers throughout the state of Texas.

The academic competitive programs of Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA) primarily motivate students to:

- find new excitement in learning;
- achieve a higher mastery level; and
- receive recognition and awards for academic excellence.

PSIA programs are designed to support the basic academic curricula and are easily implemented into daily studies to enrich academic skills.



COMPETITION LEVELS



THERE ARE THREE LEVELS OF THIS COMPETITION:

SCHOOL COMPETITION: At the beginning of the new school year in September, weekly after-school coaching classes begin for all students. After thorough preparation through these coaching classes as well as extra preparation at home (guided by parents), students compete at school in mid February to determine the top two/three students from each grade and each subject (contest category). The top performing students advance to compete at the District Level competition.

DISTRICT COMPETITION: In the first week of March (usually the first Saturday of March), top performing students from Al-Hadi participate in a District Level competition. They compete against the top students from various other private schools in our district. The 2022-23 District Competition was at St Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Houston TX on March 4th. Winners at District go on to compete at State level.

STATE COMPETITION: Winners at District Level advance to the State Level competition held usually on the last Saturday of April. They compete against top winners from all over Texas. The last State competition was on April 29, 2023 at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX.

PSIA CONTESTS

Here's a list of all contest categories students may register to participate in, according to grade level.

The next few slides share more information on each competition category (subject) offered at each grade level from 1 to 8.



PSIA Elementary and Middle School Academic Contests and Grade Levels 2023 – 2024



Event	Grades in Which Events are Offered							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Art Memory				✓		✓		
Calculator Applications						✓		
Creative Writing	✓	✓						
Dictionary Skills				✓		✓		
Impromptu Speaking							✓	
Listening Skills				✓		✓		
Maps, Graphs & Charts				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mathematics		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Modern Oratory							✓	
Music Memory			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Number Sense		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
One-Act Play							✓	
On-Site Drawing						✓	✓	✓
Oral Interpretation				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ready Writing			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Science						✓	✓	✓
Spelling		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Storytelling	✓	✓	✓					
Vocabulary					✓	✓	✓	

• Merged cells indicate grade levels for testing and advancing to State. Common background color indicates the same test over grade levels. (See individual contest instructions for specific detail on number of entries and advancing to State.) State medals are awarded for the **62 contests** listed above. **Districts should award at least the top three students at each grade level in each event. Each district may opt as space and resources provide for participating schools to enter up to 3 students per grade level in events.**

SUBJECTS AT EACH GRADE LEVEL

GRADE 1

Subjects (contest categories) available at this grade level:

Creative Writing: This event is designed to promote creativity and encourage writing skills at an early age. Using a prompt of 5 pictures, students have 30 minutes to create an original story based on the pictures.

Storytelling: Contestants hear a story that they retell before an audience. Presentations are evaluated on aspects of performance and overall effectiveness.



SUBJECTS AT EACH GRADE LEVEL

GRADE 2

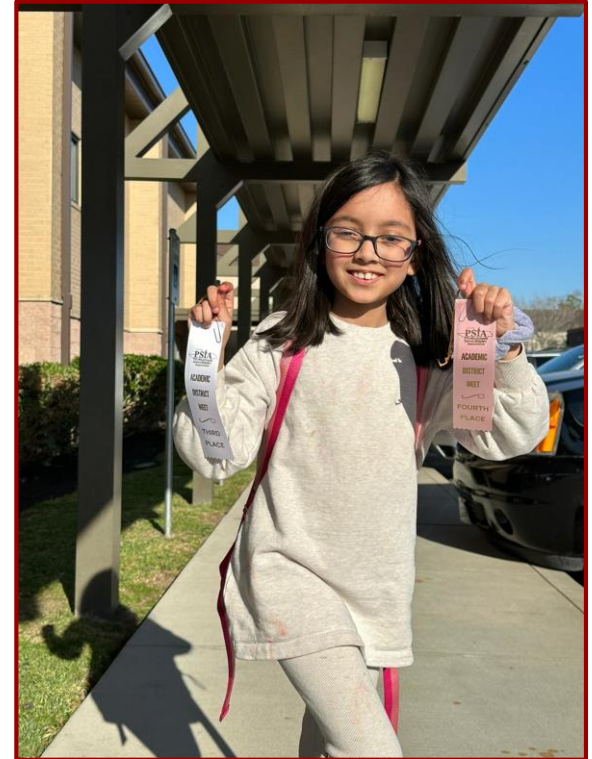
Creative Writing: This event is designed to promote creativity and encourage writing skills at an early age. Using a prompt of 5 pictures, students have 30 minutes to create an original story based on the pictures.

Storytelling: Contestants hear a story that they retell before an audience. Presentations are evaluated on aspects of performance and overall effectiveness.

Mathematics: In a comprehensive, multiple choice, 30-minute math test, students are challenged beyond their grade levels in a variety of general math questions.

Number Sense (Mental Math): Contestants find high-speed solutions to math problems in this exciting and challenging 10-minute contest in mental mathematics.

Spelling: As spelling words are pronounced on an audio device, contestants may write or print each word. 25% of the test words come from the outside source dictionary; 75% come from the Spelling List.



SUBJECTS AT EACH GRADE LEVEL

GRADE 3



Storytelling: Contestants hear a story that they retell before an audience. Presentations are evaluated on aspects of performance and overall effectiveness.

Mathematics: In a comprehensive, multiple choice, 30-minute math test, students are challenged beyond their grade levels in a variety of general math questions.

Number Sense (Mental Math): Contestants find high-speed solutions to math problems in this exciting and challenging 10-minute contest in mental mathematics.

Spelling: As spelling words are pronounced on an audio device, contestants may write or print each word. 25% of the test words come from the outside source dictionary; 75% come from the Spelling List.

Ready Writing: This event brings challenge for the gifted writer. Students are given a choice between two prompts. Each prompt defines the audience and provides or implies the purpose for writing.

SUBJECTS AT EACH GRADE LEVEL

GRADE 4

Mathematics: In a comprehensive, multiple choice, 30-minute math test, students are challenged beyond their grade level

Number Sense (Mental Math): Contestants find high-speed solutions to mental math problems.

Spelling: As spelling words are pronounced on an audio device, contestants may write or print each word. 25% of the test words come from the outside source dictionary; 75% come from the Spelling List.

Ready Writing: This event brings challenge for the gifted writer. Students are given a choice between two prompts. Each prompt defines the audience and provides or implies the purpose for writing.

Art Memory: Students are challenged to identify the artist and the work and answer questions about the art and the artists found in the Art Smart Bulletin, published every other year by TuneIn.

Dictionary Skills: Students use all elements of the dictionary (Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition) in the contest room, as they learn practical techniques for extracting and applying resource information.

Listening Skills: Good listening skills enhance any academic area, and the study materials are useful for all students. Contestants may take notes as they listen to the contest script on CD, and then use these notes as they answer objective test questions in 7 minutes.

Maps, Graphs & Charts (Geography): Tests include maps, graphs & charts and multiple-choice questions derived from 2018 or newer editions of the Nystrom Desk Atlas, which students bring to the contest.

Poetry Interpretation: Contestants select, prepare and read a literary PROSE selection within a six-minute time limit. Presentations are evaluated on aspects of performance and overall effectiveness.

Oral Interpretation:
Vocabulary

SUBJECTS AT EACH GRADE LEVEL

GRADE 5

Mathematics: In a comprehensive, multiple choice, 30-minute math test, students are challenged beyond their grade levels in a variety of general math questions.

Number Sense (Mental Math): Contestants find high-speed solutions to math problems in this exciting and challenging 10-minute contest in mental mathematics.

Spelling: As spelling words are pronounced on an audio device, contestants may write or print each word. 25% of the test words come from the outside source dictionary; 75% come from the Spelling List.

Ready Writing: This event brings challenge for the gifted writer. Students are given a choice between two prompts. Each prompt defines the audience and provides or implies the purpose for writing.

Art Memory: Students are challenged to identify the artist and the work and answer questions about the art and the artists found in the Art Smart Bulletin, published every other year by TuneIn.

Dictionary Skills: Students use all elements of the dictionary (Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition) in the contest room, as they learn practical techniques for extracting and applying resource information.

Listening Skills: Good listening skills enhance any academic area, and the study materials are useful for all students. Contestants may take notes as they listen to the contest script on CD, and then use these notes as they answer objective test questions in 7 minutes.

Maps, Graphs & Charts (Geography): Tests include maps, graphs & charts and multiple-choice questions derived from 2018 or newer editions of the Nystrom Desk Atlas, which students bring to the contest. The grade 6-8 test includes additional atlas, geography, and Texas history questions.

Poetry Interpretation: Contestants select, prepare and read a literary PROSE selection within a six-minute time limit. Presentations are evaluated on aspects of performance and overall effectiveness.

Information Skills: Students use their internet devices to find answers on the internet for 24 questions in this 30-minute online research contest.

Vocabulary: SAT/PSAT preparation skills, including word usage, reading comprehension, and analogies, are honed through this challenging 30-item multiple-choice, 30-minute contest.

SUBJECTS AT EACH GRADE LEVEL

GRADE 6

Mathematics: In a comprehensive, multiple choice, 30-minute math test, students are challenged beyond their grade levels in a variety of general math questions.

Number Sense (Mental Math): Contestants find high-speed solutions to math problems in this exciting and challenging 10-minute contest in mental mathematics.

Spelling: As spelling words are pronounced on an audio device, contestants may write or print each word. 25% of the test words come from the outside source dictionary; 75% come from the Spelling List.

Ready Writing: This event brings challenge for the gifted writer. Students are given a choice between two prompts. Each prompt defines the audience and provides or implies the purpose for writing.

Art Memory: Students are challenged to identify the artist and the work and answer questions about the art and the artists found in the Art Smart Bulletin, published every other year by TuneIn.

Dictionary Skills: Students use all elements of the dictionary (Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition) in the contest room, as they learn practical techniques for extracting and applying resource information.

Listening Skills: Good listening skills enhance any academic area, and the study materials are useful for all students. Contestants may take notes as they listen to the contest script on CD, and then use these notes as they answer objective test questions in 7 minutes.

Maps, Graphs & Charts (Geography): Tests include maps, graphs & charts and multiple-choice questions derived from 2018 or newer editions of the Nystrom Desk Atlas, which students bring to the contest. The grade 6-8 test includes additional atlas, geography, and Texas history questions.

Poetry Interpretation: Contestants select, prepare and read a literary PROSE selection within a six-minute time limit. Presentations are evaluated on aspects of performance and overall effectiveness.

Information Skills: Students use their internet devices to find answers on the internet for 24 questions in this 30-minute online research contest.

Vocabulary: SAT/PSAT preparation skills, including word usage, reading comprehension, and analogies, are honed through this challenging 30-item multiple-choice, 30-minute contest.

Calculator Applications (Pre-Engineering): This 30-minute contest develops mathematical reasoning and requires application of problem-solving skills toward realistic problems. Any calculator may be used in competition.

Science: Earth, Life and Physical Science information found in current textbooks, plus items from current science publications list, are tested in this 30-minute, multiple choice contest, which usually consists of 50 test questions.

On-Site Drawing: Contestants have 45 minutes to produce a rendering of a still life display (4 to 7 objects) on multi-use drawing paper using any media. Art works are judged by qualified artists and displayed in an art show.

SUBJECTS OFFERED FOR GRADES 7 & 8

Mathematics: In a comprehensive, multiple choice, 30-minute math test, students are challenged beyond their grade levels in a variety of general math questions.

Number Sense (Mental Math): Contestants find high-speed solutions to math problems in this exciting and challenging 10-minute contest in mental mathematics.

Spelling: As spelling words are pronounced on an audio device, contestants may write or print each word. 25% of the test words come from the outside source dictionary; 75% come from the Spelling List.

Ready Writing: This event brings challenge for the gifted writer. Students are given a choice between two prompts. Each prompt defines the audience and provides or implies the purpose for writing.

Art Memory: Students are challenged to identify the artist and the work and answer questions about the art and the artists found in the Art Smart Bulletin, published every other year by TuneIn.

Dictionary Skills: Students use all elements of the dictionary (Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition) in the contest room, as they learn practical techniques for extracting and applying resource information.

Listening Skills: Good listening skills enhance any academic area, and the study materials are useful for all students. Contestants may take notes as they listen to the contest script on CD, and then use these notes as they answer objective test questions in 7 minutes.

Maps, Graphs & Charts (Geography): Tests include maps, graphs & charts, & multiple-choice questions derived from 2018 or newer editions of the Nystrom Desk Atlas, which students bring to the contest. The grade 6-8 test includes additional atlas, geography, & Texas history questions.

Poetry Interpretation: Contestants select, prepare and read a literary PROSE selection within a six-minute time limit. Presentations are evaluated on aspects of performance and overall effectiveness.

Information Skills: Students use their internet devices to find answers on the internet for 24 questions in this 30-minute online research contest.

Vocabulary: SAT/PSAT preparation skills, including word usage, reading comprehension, and analogies, are honed through this challenging 30-item multiple-choice, 30-minute contest.

Calculator Applications (Pre-Engineering): This 30-minute contest develops mathematical reasoning and requires application of problem-solving skills toward realistic problems. Any calculator may be used in competition.

Science: Earth, Life and Physical Science information found in current textbooks, plus items from current science publications list, are tested in this 30-minute, multiple choice contest, which usually consists of 50 test questions.

On-Site Drawing: Contestants have 45 minutes to produce a rendering of a still life display (4 to 7 objects) on multi-use drawing paper using any media. Art works are judged by qualified artists and displayed in an art show.

Impromptu Speaking: Students in grades 7 and 8 combined are challenged to think quickly and communicate effectively. They organize their thoughts on a topic for three minutes, then speak for five or fewer minutes without notes.

Modern Oratory: A challenge in writing and speaking, grade 7 & 8 students prepare a short original speech to examine the pros/cons of an issue and defend their points of view, incorporating a variety of skills. Contestants take a stand on only one side of the issue.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

PSIA is a volunteer based organization. For each child enrolled, at least one parent/guardian/adult family member will be required to volunteer at the contest. Volunteer help is needed at both District and State contests.

You can choose to volunteer in any of the following categories:

Register as a Contest Director

Register as an Assistant Contest Director

Help with Grading papers at the Competition

Hall Monitor (making sure the hallways are quiet during contests)

Contest Monitor

Carpooling students (who have permission to participate but have difficulty in reaching the campus).

Arranging snacks & food for our student contestants. It's a full day of contests.

Overseeing/monitoring students while their parents volunteer at other contests.

Escorting students to contests from a central location within the premises.

Judge for speech contests

Judge writing contests

Thank you for making a difference!

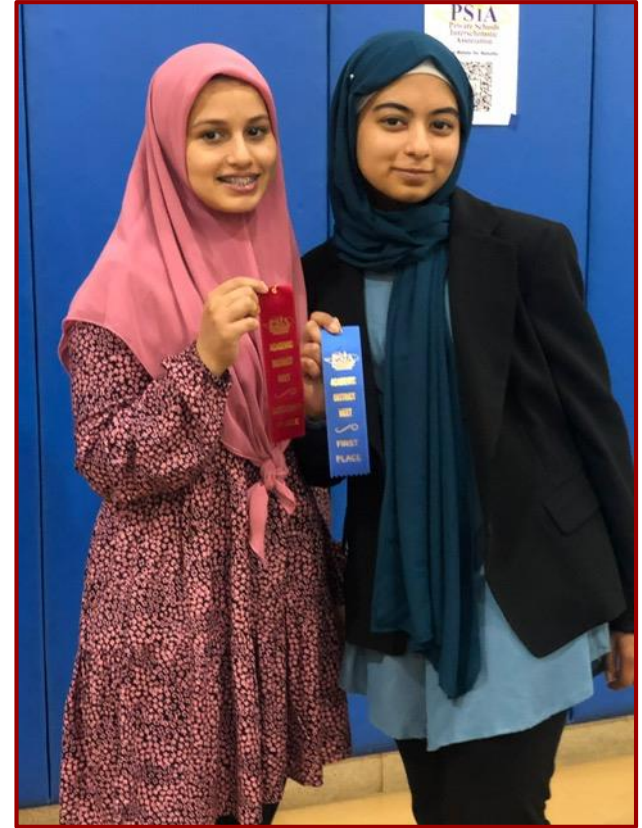




For more information, please visit:

<https://www.psiaacademics.org/>

<https://www.alhadi.com/student-life/psia.html>



Please contact Sr. Naveed Fatima at nfatima@alhadi.com with questions.