

**Amphitheater School District  
COURSE REQUEST FORM**

**I. RATIONALE – justification of need, citing data**

This course will serve as a preparatory course for the Academic Pentathlon, the nation-wide, middle school division of the US Academic Decathlon program. The Academic Pentathlon prepares students for success in college and careers by building 21st century skills in communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and character.

**II. DESCRIPTION – course goals and objectives, pre-requisites, format**

Academic Pentathlon is an exciting five-event competition for grades six, seven, and eight. The program engages students of all achievement levels in a variety of challenging academic events. Under the guidance of an adult coach, teams of students prepare for competition in the subject areas of fine arts (art and music), literature (including essay analysis), math, science, and social science.

**III. ARTICULATION – reference to state standards, specific skills sets, and articulation with other courses**

Academic Pentathlon consists of a self-contained curriculum for the subjects listed above. The curriculum is developed around themes that runs parallel to the high school Academic Decathlon theme. The curriculum can be directly applied to national and state standards. For example, the 2019-20 United States Academic Pentathlon theme is In Sickness and in Health: An Exploration of Illness and Wellness. Below is a brief summary of the topics covered:

**SCIENCE:** The science topic will be an introduction to the biology of cancer.

**LITERATURE:** The literature curriculum will include critical reading, one long work of literature, and selected shorter works. The long work of literature will be the novel *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson.

**FINE ARTS:** The fine arts curriculum is a combination of art and music. The guide will focus on the exploration of illness and wellness in art. The music will focus on music across centuries that will allow students to examine the role of mortality in Western art music.

**SOCIAL SCIENCE:** The social science curriculum will introduce students to the history of healthcare.

**MATHEMATICS:** The mathematics curriculum will cover algebra and trigonometry.

**IV. AUDIENCE – student group (school, grade, discipline) to be served**

The course will be available to students who complete the application and meet the national requirements. The Academic Pentathlon team will consist of 6-9 members, but the course audience will vary depending on the number of applicants. Each team must consist of at least two students in the following GPA groups: Honor (3.75 to 4.00), Scholastic (3.00 to 3.7499), and Varsity (Under 3.00).

**V. RESOURCES – specific texts, materials, equipment needed**

The fee for registering a team and receiving a site license for downloading materials is \$275.00. In addition, there will be a \$10 charge per team member for the online testing during the year. Each curriculum also features a novel central to the theme. USAP also offers free curriculum for the first year for new schools.

**VI. OUTCOME – evaluation of course effectiveness**


Administration, teacher, and student evaluations will be considered at the end of each semester.

**VII. IMPLEMENTATION – timeline to include pilot phase and annual evaluation of proposed course**

The program will be piloted at Cross & Coronado with plans to expand to the other middle schools.

**VIII. PROCESS – how teachers, parents, and students (when appropriate) were included in the decision making process**

As we looked at potential academic electives to add, an academic competition program to help students with Academic Decathlon in high school made sense to be added in the realm of the humanities. This program is the perfect fit.

**APPROVAL:**  2/5/20 \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal date Superintendent Designee date

**(NOTE: Must be submitted for Governing Board approval prior to the end of the current school year for implementation during the following school year.)**