

Dear Parents,

We are very excited to announce that St. Maria Goretti Catholic School will begin participating this year in the Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA) extracurricular academic program for elementary and middle schools. Participating in PSIA provides an exciting opportunity for private school students to engage in academic competition with their peers throughout the state of Texas.

PSIA remains the most comprehensive academic extracurricular programs in the nation for students in grades 1-8. Through PSIA participation, your child will:

- Refine mental aptitudes
- Affirm self-worth
- Find new excitement in learning (especially in the spring time)
- Develop teamwork and a sense of fair play
- Experience a sense of pride and dignity
- Appreciate that rules, consistently applied, create order and discipline
- Experience the joy of achieving in a wholesome environment
- Foster self-discipline and perseverance
- Achieve recognition for academic excellence
- Make better choices of after-school activities
- Enjoy camaraderie with students from other schools
- Receive tangible awards for his/her academic ability
- HAVE FUN!

Though PSIA offers 19 contest categories covering a broad range of disciplines in 59 academic contests and is open to students in grades 1-8, we will only be competing in four academic events and will offer the program to 3rd-8th Grade students this year. We plan to expand the number of academic events and the grade-level in which we begin the program, next year.

Next week, your 3rd-8th Grade student will have the opportunity to try out (test) for one or more of these PSIA academic events:

Maps, Graphs & Charts (4th-8th grade)
Mathematics (3rd-8th grade)

Number Sense (4th-8th grade)
Ready Writing (3rd-8th grade)

PSIA Registration:

The fee for participation is \$10 per event. Students may participate in more than one event; Fees for PSIA entries will be billed to your school FACTS account.

Preparation

Students who are interested and qualify to participate in the program this year will work with an academic coach on the chosen topic/event for approximately an hour after school each week/every other week leading up to the District and State competition meets that will be held in the spring. Since our academic coaches may select only a limited number of students from each grade to be entered at the district level in each event, we encourage you to talk with your child about his/her interest in participating in the program.

We have several teachers who have committed to serving as academic coaches, working with students who are selected to participate in the program. We would welcome other parent volunteers who wish to become involved in the PSIA program.

