

SUTTON MIDDLE SCHOOL 2011-12 ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS

Formed fall 2010, Sutton's Academic Committee identifies academic competitions, and prepares and supports our students as they participate in-school, advance locally, regionally, nationally and/or internationally. The committee's goal includes: hone advancing skills, stretch creativity and problem solving, and enhance team dynamics while competing at various levels. For example, Sutton's 2009-10 Odyssey of the Mind team ranked fifth in the OM World Competition. (2010-11 team also advanced to World though unable to attend.) For 2010-11, an impressive number of students and teams rated and ranked with extraordinary performances – and trophies! See the Sutton website "Academic Competitions" link on the first page for more detailed, continually updated information from 2010-2011 including websites, contact information, etc. The bar raises and, proudly, our students have as well, therefore:

Volunteers of all levels continually needed and appreciated! Students and parents, please review for your interest in participating.

Academic Committee Co-chairs: 2011-2012: Angela Boardman aboardman@covente.com 404.217.7562 & Andrea Burroughs a-burroughs@comcast.net 404.663.5755;
Lisa Fearon/PTA, committee formation in progress. 2010-2011: Bindu Balakrishnan & Angela Church; Sutton's Instructional Coach: Benjamin Moore,
2010-11 Committee: Shawnee Smith/PTA, Hillary Yarmowich, Julia Pinkston, Sandy McGaffigan. Jane Tidwell, Jim Bell, Gillian Taylor,
Simone Alting, Cindy Cook, Claire Eden, Leslie Langley, Joleen Neel, Amy Shea, Allison Adair, Fran Grice

DEBATE - 6th-8th GRADES - The newly reformed Sutton Debate Team got off to a sprightly start with a dedicated core of award winning debaters. Our team competes with many other local schools in the Atlanta Urban Debate League in a series of weekend events October-February

FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA – 6th-8th GRADES – FBLA, is a national student organization, dedicated to making today's middle school students, tomorrow's leaders. FBLA has three main aspects: 1) Social: members get to know each other and have fun; 2) Professional: members learn new things about business, attend conferences and develop job skills; and 3) Community Service: members participate and lead community efforts. FBLA's objective is to prepare students for careers; not just in business, but in any career where leadership, enthusiasm, and creative thinking are necessities. Through leadership opportunities, competitions, conferences, and social activities, FBLA will prepare students for the 21st century in the most innovative ways.

GEOGRAPHY BEE – 6th-8th GRADES - Sutton teachers select three students from their classes to compete in the Geography Bee. The Sutton Geography Bee usually occurs in early January. The winner of the Sutton Geography Bee takes a written qualifying exam provided by the National Geographic, and their answer sheet is sent to the National Geographic. This test determines the top scoring one hundred students in each state who are invited to compete at the state-level competition. The Georgia State Geography Bee will likely be in early April at the Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville, GA. The winner of the Georgia Geography Bee will be eligible to compete in the National Geography Bee in the end of May at the National Geographic Headquarters in Washington, DC. Students compete at the National Geography Bee for scholarships for \$25,000, \$15,000 and \$10,000

MATH ONE FAIR – 8th Grade - part of the One Fair of APS. The 8th grade advanced math classes participate. Guidelines are given by the teachers. Students research a math-related question and prepare a report and display. They also must be able to explain their work.

SIGMA MATH - 6th-8th GRADES: A competition in which students compete at mathematical problem solving. Groups of students for each grade assemble periodically through the year during the school day for about an hour and solve problems. There are winners for the school and the first competition is coming up in early November.

MATHCOUNTS - 6th-8th GRADES: A competition for the very best math students at Sutton. This program will start sometime towards the end of November. Typically, five to eight students are selected and compete with other schools in APS with the possibility of moving on to a state competition and beyond.

MATHLEAGUE - 6th-8th GRADES: A fun math club open to all.

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND – 6TH-8TH GRADES Odyssey of the Mind www.odysseyofthemind.com, www.georgiaodyssey.org is parent-driven educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students. Teams of 5 - 7 members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and World level. Thousands of teams from throughout the U.S. and from about 25 other countries participate in the program.

HELEN RUFFIN READING BOWL – 6th-8th Grades - Love to read? Then represent Sutton Middle School in a Reading Competition! The Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl is a state-wide reading competition, like the quiz bowls you see on TV. The questions for the competition come from the 20 titles nominated for the Georgia Book Award for the current school year. The team is open to students in all grades. All books are available in the Sutton Library! The team prepares and practices throughout the fall and competition takes place in early February.

SCIENCE ONE FAIR – 7TH GRADE - The Science Fair Club is geared toward budding scientists who crave to learn how our world works. Centered on the science fair project, students who join this club will follow the steps of the scientific method as they design and execute an experiment in an effort to explain a question that they have posed. Students will research a math topic that interests them and then present their findings in a display, a written paper, and an oral explanation. The final projects are due for the school fair on Wednesday, Nov. 24. Winners will progress to the SRT fair in the first week of December. Projects that are chosen at level will then compete at the SRT 4 level in January, with the opportunity to move to the regional state and even national level!

SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR – 6TH GRADE - Local, regional and state social studies fairs present exhibitions of student work from grades 5-12. Each project is designed to show research and conclusions about the study of people and their relationships to their physical and social environment. The Georgia Social Studies Fair leads students, through competition, to learn, practice, and perfect research processes. Social Studies is a diverse discipline that covers many subject areas including geography, history, political science, economics, anthropology, archeology, law, philosophy, psychology, religion and sociology. This integrated curriculum enables educators to help students develop their ability to make informed decisions for the public good and better understand world affairs. This year Sutton Middle School's entire 6th grade was required to participate in the school system's local Social Studies Fair. In this preliminary competition 3 students were selected to advance to the regional fair. Judges at the regional fairs select the sixteen best projects to advance to the state fair. The state fair consists of the display and review of the best sixteen projects from each of the six regional fairs.

SPELLING BEE - 6-8th Grades – Throughout fall, Sutton Language Arts teachers hold grade level spelling bees to determine the top 10-12 spellers per grade. These 30+ students will attend after school practice sessions until approximately mid-January school-wide Championship Spelling Bee. Three finalist advance to the district competition, etc.

FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVERS, ROBOTICS AND BETA are competitions under consideration. If there is interest, a parent volunteer must coordinate and secure teacher liaison – and will receive instructions, guidelines, parameters and full support from the Academic Committee. Other competitions may be considered as well.

Let the races begin! Questions, volunteering, please contact:

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