

THE A-TEAM

WHAT IS THE OLA HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC TEAM?

The academic team consists of students in grades 9-12 who compete in teams of four against other high schools from the state and country. There are two levels of play: varsity for grades 9-12 and junior varsity for grades 9 & 10. Competition is usually in the form of 12-15 tournaments a year in Georgia and in the southeast US and may include an appearance on WSB's High Q show.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO JOIN?

- 1) A desire to work hard and to learn
- 2) A desire to have fun
- 3) Ability to work as a team
- 4) Annual dues of \$50. This is to cover the cost of books, CD, and shirts you receive, but members will not be turned away due to genuine financial hardship.
- 5) The commitment to attend practice
- 6) Willingness to complete assignments
- 7) Working in some capacity at our own tournament
- 8) Doing whatever is asked of you to benefit the team as a whole (for ex. fundraisers)
- 9) Good character and respectable manner
- 10) QUALITY

QUALITY DEFINED: "While quality is difficult to define precisely, it almost always includes caring for each other, is always useful, has always involved hard work on someone's part, and when we are involved with it, as either a provider or a receiver, it always feels good. Because it feels so good, I believe all of us carry in our heads a clear idea of what quality is for ourselves."

-William Glasser-

WHEN IS PRACTICE?

Practice happens all year, from August through April. There will be morning and afternoon practices. You are not expected to attend every practice, but you are expected to attend as many as possible (at least one or two per week) and to explain extended absences. Your commitment to practice will be rewarded with playing time in tournaments, invitations to travel, and personal development.

WHAT DO I STUDY?

Based on your interest and ability and team need, you will be asked to study a particular major (social studies, literature, or science) and a particular minor (mythology, art, literature, music). You will be given study resources and will be expected to supplement them.

DO I GET TO COMPETE?

Registering teams in tournaments costs \$50 - \$100 per team. We get no funding from the school; that's why dues and fundraisers like our tournament are so important. As long as we can afford registration fees and we have willing adult chaperones and players, we can

enter 2-3 teams per tournament. The coach will make up the teams based on performance in practice, subject area knowledge, teamwork, and attitude. A player may be PROMOTED or DEMOTED among the teams depending on his/her effort. In any event, you are expected to support all of your fellow team members.

Not being on the first team does NOT mean you do not have a role. Everyone can contribute and be a part of the group: by helping with our tournament, by participating in practice, by helping people study, keeping stats, working on equipment, etc. There are no cuts. Anyone who wants to be a part of a great group is welcome.

WHAT DO I GET OUT OF IT?

- 1) FUN – TRIPS AND SOCIAL GATHERINGS AND PRACTICE
- 2) COMPETITION
- 3) TRAVEL – TRIPS HAVE INCLUDED NASHVILLE, RALEIGH, COLUMBIA, AUSTIN, NEW ORLEANS, SAVANNAH
- 4) LEARNING, WHICH WILL HELP YOUR CLASS PERFORMANCE
- 5) THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPRESENT THE SCHOOL
- 6) TEAM AWARDS AND RECOGNITION
- 7) THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN A SCHOOL LETTER

WHAT DO PARENTS HAVE TO DO?

Parents have an essential role in our success. They are asked to join and support the OHS Academic Team Boosters Club, which functions in the same manner as the Band Boosters or Sports Boosters. Parents are asked to support their students by helping them in their studies and in their practice and tournament schedules. Parents are asked to help with fundraisers. Parents are also genuinely encouraged to attend competitions as chaperones whenever possible. Parents have a tremendous role in our success, and success is not possible without their support.

There is a summer quiz bowl camp at which Mr. Burns usually works. If interested in more information see www.acequizbowlcamp.com

COACHES

The head coach is Mr. Jeff Burns. Ola represents the third academic team he has started from scratch, and he is an active member of the Georgia Academic Team Association's Board of Directors, serving as state tournament director for several years. The achievements of the Henry County High Academic Team are listed below. Assistant coaches are Mr. John Moore and Mrs. Darlene Sabine.

If you have any questions over the summer, please email Mr. Burns at jeffburns@charter.net or Jeff.Burns@henry.k12.ga.us

We will probably start the second or third week of school. We want to see you.

FAQs

Do I have to be an AP, Honors, or A student?

No, many good quiz bowlers aren't. You just have to be interested in learning, competing and being challenged. Do you watch Jeopardy, the Discovery Channel, and/or the history channel? Are you a reader? Are you aware of things or have interests that your peers don't necessarily share? Do you know more than anybody else in the class or the teacher? Do you want to learn more, beyond the classroom?

Can I do academic team and other activities like sports and band and drama?

Yes.

What do I get for dues?

Team shirt, notebook of study material, CD-Rom, other books and tools.

What work is there?

Study, add to your study notebook, strive to get better. Show up for practice. Participate in fundraisers and work in our tournament if and when we host. From time to time, there will be assignments made that you have to complete.

Ways to Prepare

1. READ. Literature classics, biographies, nonfiction, almanacs, encyclopedias, atlases, newspapers, magazines, etc. **READ!**
2. CHECK OUT and study some of the many resource books in my room.
3. WATCH educational television: GPTV, The Learning Channel, Discovery Channel, History Channel, A&E, C-SPAN, etc. Game shows like Jeopardy, Millionaire, History IQ.
4. PLAY trivia games.
5. LISTEN to classical music, attend plays, museums, etc.
6. ATTEND PRACTICE AND TOURNAMENTS REGULARLY.
7. LISTEN in class.
8. PARTICIPATE in other competitions (as long as they don't interfere with academic team): math league, science bowl, etc.
9. WRITE tournament questions.
10. ADD things to your subject notebook.
11. DEVELOP memory skills and strategies.
12. ENCOURAGE your parents' support and participation.
13. STUDY! STUDY! STUDY! STUDY! STUDY! STUDY!
14. SURF THE NET – Check out quiz bowl sites and educational links.

15. ATTEND quiz bowl camp in July.

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS--- HCHS		
2000	Dunwoody JV	2nd
2001	Dodge County V	2nd
2001	Dodge County V	3rd
2001	GATA AAAAA Coach of the Year	
2001	National Championship (NAQT) Tournament @ GA Tech	
2002	Fort Valley State University	2nd
2002	GA All-Star Team Coach @ PAC**	4th of 50
2002	GA All-Star Team Player @ PAC**	4th of 50
2002	Griffin RESA V	1st
2002	Riverdale TN V	Quarter-finalist
2002	Savannah Country Day V	2nd
2002	UGA Habitat for Humanity	1st
2002	UGA Habitat for Humanity	2nd
2002	WSB's High Q	Semi-finalist
2002	National Championship (NAQT) Tournament @ Univ. Texas	20th of 50
2002	National Championship (NAC) Tournament @ Loyola (New Orleans)	20th of 50
2003	GA All-Star Team Coach @ PAC**	
2003	GA All-Star Team Player @ PAC**	
2003	GATA AAAAA Coach of the Year	
2003	GATA Region 2-AAAAA	1st
2003	Griffin RESA JV	1st
2003	Griffin RESA V	1st
2003	James Island High School	Semi-finalist
2006	Chattahoochee High School JV	2nd
2006	GATA State JV Championship	3rd

****PAC is Panasonic Academic Challenge, held annually at Walt Disney World. Each state is represented by one team of 6.**