

Urbandale Academic Decathlon Team Qualifies For State Competition

The Urbandale Academic Decathlon team took home numerous 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishes in addition to placing 4th overall and qualifying for state at the Iowa Academic Decathlon regional competition

URBANDALE, Iowa – February 4, 2016 – The [Urbandale Community School District](#) congratulates the Urbandale Academic Decathlon team: Noah Chalfant, Pat McBroom, Nathan Spicer, Noah Torstenson, Brett Carrier, Thomas Critelli O'Donnell and A.J. Korver, for receiving numerous 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishes, in addition to placing 4th overall, at the [Iowa Academic Decathlon](#) regional competition on January 28–29, 2016. The Iowa Academic Decathlon, a division of United States Academic Decathlon®, is an academic competition comprised of 10 events within the following areas: mathematics, economics, art, music, language and literature, social science, science, speech, interview, and essay. Teams consist of up to nine students and each team has three divisions of three students: Honors, Scholastic and Varsity. It truly is a “contest of academic strength” as all team members must participate in all 10 events.

“It's great to see our students find success after hard work,” said Urbandale High School Extended Learning Program Teacher Karlee McKibban. “They are excited about the opportunity to represent Urbandale at the state competition.”



Pictured: Urbandale High School Academic Decathlon team members: Noah Chalfant, Pat McBroom, Nathan Spicer, Noah Torstenson, Brett Carrier, Thomas Critelli O'Donnell and A.J. Korver.

Central Regional Results

- Honors Division: Thomas Critelli O'Donnell placed 1st and Noah Torstenson placed 3rd overall in the Language and Literature category.

- Scholastic Division: Nathan Spicer placed 1st overall in the Economics category and 1st overall in the Social Studies category. A.J. Korver tied for 3rd overall in the Math category and tied for 1st place in the Art category.
- Varsity Division: Noah Chalfant placed 2nd overall in the Interview and 3rd overall in the Language and Literature category.
- Super Quiz category: Urbandale tied for 3rd with Indianola.
- Overall Central Region: Urbandale placed 4th out of 14 total teams.

Participating in an Iowa Academic Decathlon is a notable honor and one that requires dedication and perseverance knowing that preparation for the event typically begins in the fall and continues through spring. Students across the state compete for awards, advancement and scholarships. A scrimmage takes place in December with the regional competition in January followed by the state competition in March culminating with the national competition in April.

[Transforming education](#) throughout the Urbandale Community School District is at the core of every learning experience. Urbandale believes that supporting students in their academic pursuits—be it competing in state academic decathlons, building one’s capacity for critical thinking, or developing effective methods for group collaboration—is fundamental for preparing students to become college- and/or career-ready. Urbandale congratulates these high-achieving and talented students on their remarkable accomplishments and wishes them the best of luck as they move forward competing in the state tournament taking place March 4–5, 2016. To learn more about how Urbandale is transforming education, visit: UrbandaleSchools.com

About Urbandale Community School District

The Urbandale Community School District includes portions of Des Moines and Urbandale, Iowa. The district serves over 3,900 students in six elementary schools, one middle school and one comprehensive high school. The Urbandale district supports an increasingly diverse student population where 51 languages are spoken. Building on the existing foundation of excellence in education, Urbandale is transforming education throughout the district. By implementing innovative [Quality/Continual Improvement](#) strategies that create learning environments that more fully engage, challenge and motivate students, Urbandale is taking transformation from theory into practice. Urbandale prepares students for becoming lifelong learners and is a school district that brings learning to life for everyone. To learn more, visit: UrbandaleSchools.com and follow on Twitter [@UrbandaleSchool](#).

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