

We are writing to encourage you to register one or more teams of students for the 2009-2010 Future Problem Solving Program (FPSPI). Last year, over eighty teams were registered in the state of Pennsylvania, with hundreds of thousands of students participating throughout the United States and in several foreign countries. Visit our website to learn more www.mcsdk12.org/fpsp

Benefits

•**The skills that the young people are learning will help them throughout their lives.** Several school districts in Pennsylvania have become very active participants in this program, because they understand that their students are well prepared for their futures by participating in the program. As they mature and assume leadership positions in society, we believe that they will use these skills, as well as their positive attitudes about problem solving, to the benefit of all of us.

•**Students involved in FPS learn and use a six step problem solving process to try to solve some very complex problems set in the future.** The process stresses in-depth research coupled with creative thinking. Most of the students become so comfortable with the process that they use it in their academic studies and in their personal lives.

•**Students involved in FPS develop communication skills.** The process requires them to use both verbal and written communication skills, as they express their ideas to teammates and to evaluators, who score their work and offer suggestions for improvement.

•**FPS is ideal for students, grades 4-12.** The program can be utilized in various organizational configurations -- in grade level and subject area classes, multi-disciplinary teams, programs for exceptional students, current events programs, and even in extracurricular activities or clubs.

•**FPS is a vehicle for meaningful staff development.** Professional development opportunities can be arranged and customized to individual needs. There are also many resources available to help teachers, parents and others learn how to work with students in this program.

•**FPS is an ideal way to help students fulfill their high school projects.** Students at the high school level, ninth grade and above, do research and apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate information, and then communicate their problem solving process and solutions to problems. A community problem solving program is available through the national office. This program can be extremely useful to high school students fulfilling community service requirements.

•**FPS is a way for students to be assessed on their problem solving skills, working habits, study skills and ability to collaborate.** Each registered team of four students at the elementary, middle and high school levels has its future problem solving work scored by outside evaluators, and is a potential participant in a competitive Bowl, to be held in Harrisburg in April.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Register for Team Problem Solving, Scenario Writing or Community Problem Solving !!
(Specific forms can be downloaded at www.mcsdk12.org/fpsp) Registration entitles you to:

- Receive three practice problems for student team problem solving during the year, plus additional bonus problems;
- Be able to use these problems at the classroom, school and district level to help teams of students creatively solve future - oriented problems;
- Have one team's solutions to each problem objectively evaluated by an expert evaluator, with written feedback provided;
- Be a potential participant in competitive competitions at the state and national levels.
- Receive information on coaching students, on futures and creative problem solving, and on interesting strategies and activities for teaching and learning;
- Receive information about the scenario writing contests, community problem solving, and other programs offered through Future Problem Solving;
- Receive information on the many resources available to help understand and support the program and instructional excellence.

The set of problems for next year, and their due dates are the following:

Sensory Overload	October 23, 2009 (steps 1-3 only)
Invasive Species	December 18th, 2009
Orphaned Children	February 19, 2010 (Qualifying Topic)
Food Distribution	State Bowl April 16-17 2010
Green Living	International Bowl, June 10-13 2010
	University of Wisconsin La Crosse

In order to register for the Pennsylvania Future Problem Solving Program, please fill out the specific 2009-2010 registration form and return it to me as soon as possible. You may register more than one team for evaluation and feedback, provided that you enclose the designated registration fee for each registered team. The practice problems will be sent to you in September, along with information about resources, problem directions, etc.

If you need more information, or have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call Jack R. Anderson at 717 543-5254, email us at jra57@mcsdk12.org or write to us at the following address:

**Send Registration forms/PO's/checks to:
Jack Richard Anderson, Director
Future Problem Solving Program
256 Orchard Lane
McClure Pa 17841**

**PENNSYLVANIA
FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING--REGULAR PROGRAM
TIMETABLES AND DEADLINES
2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR**

First Practice Problem

Topic: Sensory Overload
Postmarked by: October 23rd, 2009 (Only steps 1-3)

Second Practice Problem

Topic: Invasive Species
Postmarked by: December 18th 2009

**Third Practice Problem
Qualifying Problem**

Topic: Orphaned Children
Postmarked by: February 19th, 2010

All practice problems should be sent first class mail to your specific Regional Evaluation Coordinator

Central Region

Jack R. Anderson
256 Orchard Lane
McClure, Pa 17841
717 543-5254
jra57@mcsdk12.org

Eastern Region

Steve Buckingham
1339 Mill Road
MeadowBrook, Pa 19046
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Western Region

Pat Palazzolo
1415 Rostron Drive
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Pennsylvania Affiliate Bowl

Topic:
Date:

Radisson Penn Harris Hotel Camp Hill
Orphaned Children
April 16-17 2010

International Conference:

Topic:
Date:

University of Wisconsin La Crosse
Green Living
June 10-13 2010