



Dear Parents:

The spring semester provides opportunities for our students to be involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities. Although the semester seems to start out slow, spring break is quick to follow. If we don't prepare for the blitz, students can find themselves feeling unprepared and overwhelmed. I know that as families you have to choose very carefully how your students will spend their time outside the classroom. Finding that balance is an individual decision based on many different variables unique to your family.

As part of our desire to provide opportunities for our students' academic pursuit, we encourage our 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to compete in the *Private Schools Interscholastic Association* (PSIA) and high school students in the *Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools* (TAPPS) academic competitions. Both of these competitions provide a variety of different contest categories covering a wide range of disciplines. These competitions allow for students to maximize their strengths and acquire valuable experience in a viable contest with students their own age across our state.

Education research has proven that students benefit from academic rigor. According to The Education Resources Institute, a rigorous academic program is indispensable for all students. Participation in these types of academic activities can help to promote and reinforce the development of cognitive abilities and key learning skills being taught in the classroom.

We understand that committing to participate will require additional time and preparation to an already challenging curriculum and rigorous course load. The teachers recognize this is a commitment above and beyond the regular academic requirements. They will provide incentives and make some allowances for those students accepting the challenge. Please consider the recommendation for your student.

Sincerely,

Linda Yeilding  
Principal  
Texoma Christian School