

LISD Destination Imagination How it Works

1) What is Destination Imagination?

- a) Extra-curricular program that works with small teams of up to 7 students to teach them how to use their creativity to develop innovative solutions to complex problems.
- b) Emphasis is on self-directed education, team work, problem solving, critical thinking and creativity.
- c) Solutions are showcased in a local regional tournament in late February or early March.
- d) Top performers compete at the state tournament in April – the 2017 state tournament is in Lubbock, Texas.
- e) Top performers at state go on to DI Global Finals at the end of May in Knoxville, TN.

2) What problems do they solve?

- a) Each student team chooses 1 problem (referred to as a challenge) of the 6 produced by DI each year: technical, science, structural, fine arts, improvisation or community service.
- b) An additional challenge for early learners (k-2nd grade) is provided. This level is called *Rising Stars* and is non-competitive. The RS teams' DI season ends at the regional tournament.
- c) Students will also solve an Instant Challenge – a “think on your feet” challenge that will be kept confidential until the tournament.

3) Who, What, Where and When?

- a) Teams are school and grade based: Rising Stars is K-2nd; Elementary is 3rd- 5th; Middle is 6th-8th and Secondary is 9th-12th.
- b) Most teams are managed by parent volunteers, trained at no cost to them. Without these volunteers, there are no teams.
- c) Teams meet outside of school hours on a schedule agreed upon by the team managers and other team parents.
- d) Most teams meet in the home of the team manager or other team members. Some teams arrange to meet at their school, a local library or other facility such as a rec center or church.
- e) Rising Stars teams meet once a week for 45 minutes to 1 hour.
- f) Competitive teams (all others) start out meeting once a week for 1 ½ hours to 2 hours and may increase that as the tournament nears.
- g) Team managers act as facilitators – they do not do the work for the kids. Additional time will be required for planning and post meeting activities.

4) What is the cost?

- a) LISD pays for the team membership and the tournament fees. The membership includes program materials (a handbook) with meeting plans, challenges and rules. Additional support resources are provided on the local TVNC DI regional website at www.tvncdi.org.
- b) LISD also pays for some, not all, of the expenses for teams that advance to State and Globals.
- c) Costs for supplies and team workshops (not TM training) are funded by the teams. This cost is minimal. Some school PTAs have funding for these expenses.
- d) Coordination of the program is handled by the LISD DI Coordinator, Robin Napier, in the Gifted Education department, not by the individual schools. Volunteers at some of the schools assist in organizing teams.
- e) Comprehensive team manager training is provided by regional trainers and online at DI University at no cost.

5) When does it start?

- a) Returning teams will start meeting in September.
- b) New teams will form throughout September and October. They begin meeting as soon as the team is formed and a TM has been identified and cleared by the LISD volunteer background check.
- c) Teams that plan to compete at the tournament must be registered for the tournament by mid-December – specific date to be determined.

More information can be found at www.tvncdi.org.
Or contact Robin Napier at napierr@lisd.net or 469-948-8201