

Current Islip Science Olympiads:

After yesterday, I figured I'd write some thoughts about the day and season to date.

First off, congratulations to the B and C team this year. Many of you are new to the team, so I hope that you gained the experience to be even better next year.

Second, the Penn results for A Team were very mixed in my opinion. Many of the people that have been spending countless hours working to prepare for their events were rewarded with medals or top 10 finishes. Other individuals were less than successful due to teammates that have not been pulling their fair share of the weight. And lastly, some events showed that little to no progress has been made since Regionals. For the future, if we continue to do invitationals, the purpose is for realistic representations of how we have worked toward improvement. I have heard of too many unacceptable actions and attitudes for Princeton and Penn where it shows that some teammates are not taking the time of their partners and the rest of their teammates seriously. In the future, this will result in automatic removal from future competitions. We do not spend thousands of dollars going to these competitions for people to act in the manners that I have witnessed at these two competitions since regionals.

This entire TEAM requires the success of all students, and all students need to work up to their abilities in order for everyone on the TEAM to be successful. One or two events near the bottom will significantly bring down the entire team rank. Yes, medals are wonderful and fantastic, but at the end of the day, the team rank is what matters. Everyone needs to contribute to the success of the team. The goal at states is to break the top 10. No excuses about why the test weren't fair, or that you couldn't separate the test, or that your device isn't working. This is the last competition in less than three weeks. This is where we are defined as a team since there will be no more "next times."

At the end of the day, we all need to be able to say that we have put in our all at that the state competition. I can say that many of you have, but some of you have not.

You are an extremely bright and amazing group of students that I truly respect. Getting to states is no easy task. Spending countless weekends at invites to prepare is a great sacrifice. Realizing your potential for greatness will depend on each and everyone of the 15 teammates in less than three weeks. So as you look at your schedules over these next days, ask yourself what can you sacrifice to the betterment of yourself and the team as a whole. Let's make the push and use whatever it takes to get a medal in every event and a top 10 finish.

I will not be here the Monday through Wednesday before states. You need to get everything together this week or next for any assistance that you may need. Talk to your teachers for help.

Lastly, no student besides those A team members (or Connor helping build devices) are allowed in 106/109 after school. There has been little to no work done with all of the distractions in the rooms. If I see people in the rooms just hanging out and not prepping in some fashion, you will be asked to leave. There is no time in the next two weeks during school for shenanigans.

Again, I am very proud of your accomplishments this year. Please keep on working hard to get to that goal. You have been to more invitationals than I think any other NYS schools. Use these resources and experiences to shoot for the gold.

Dr. Christiansen