



# Nebraska Department of Education

300 Centennial Mall South ♦ Lincoln, Nebraska ♦ 68508

## High Ability Learning

January 2023

### Upcoming Event Opportunities



Welcome to 2023! I cannot believe how fast 2022 flew by. There was so much to celebrate in 2022, and I am looking forward to what the new year will bring! I encourage you to reflect upon all of the positive things you accomplished in the last year.

As always, thank you for all that you do for the students of Nebraska!

This newsletter will focus on opportunities that you may use with your students. If you have additional questions about anything in this newsletter, contact myself or use the contact information provided for the people associated with the programs.

Happy New Year!



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## HAL Spotlight: Royall Woodman

The purpose of the HAL Spotlight is to allow you to connect and meet your counterparts across the state. Feel free to reach out to one another! Establishing a cohesive network is super important, and it reminds us that we all have one common goal—serving HAL students.

This month's spotlight is Royall Woodman. Royall is a 7-12 grade math teacher at Elm Creek, and she is the HAL coordinator. Royall is committed to providing differentiated opportunities to HAL students in her classroom.



Royall Woodman  
7-12 Math Teacher; HAL Coordinator at Elm Creek  
[Royall.woodman@elmcreekschools.org](mailto:Royall.woodman@elmcreekschools.org)

**What is your favorite part about working with High Ability Learners?**

*I love the perspective that high ability students have.*

**What are some things you are excited about for the school year?**

*Being a part of the HAL/NeMTSS pilot. So much good information and learning is happening there and I love the connections I am making and I'm excited for how it will impact my school district.*

**What is something you would like to tell other HAL people across the state? Is there any advice or anything you would like to say?**

*I would like to tell them good job for whatever they are doing for high ability students. Also, that we can always be improving and learning more to help enrich the learning environment of our students.*

**What do you like to do in your free time?**

*I like to hang out at home with my husband and 2 year old son. I also love binge reading Sci-Fi books and doing hand lettering.*

### Events

◆  
NeGifted  
Conference  
February 15, 2023  
9am-3:30pm

[Register here!](#)



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# National Inventor's Hall of Fame



National Inventors  
Hall of Fame®

*Challenging today's innovators*

The [National Inventors Hall of Fame®](#) (NIHF) honors the past while investing in the future by encouraging young inventors to be entrepreneurs through unique and meaningful experiences while introducing staff and students to the Innovation Mindset™. [NIHF education programs](#) combine hands-on fun and creativity with STEM concepts. Each program is grounded in Invention Education/STEM to reconnect students with joyful learning in school or during out of school time, especially your HAL students.

For over 30 years, the National Inventors Hall of Fame® has partnered with schools and districts nationwide to connect visionary inventors with the next generation. Invention Education will renew enthusiasm and provide you and your staff immediate strategies to engage and empower HAL students to invent, to problem solve, and to make their learning visible in all subject areas. Ultimately, Invention Education will help take [STEM to another level](#) and prepare HAL students for a future yet to be determined and jobs we do not know will exist.

Beginning in January 2023, the National Inventors Hall of Fame® will also offer a professional learning series where district staff can work with our experts and dive deeper into Invention Education and how the Innovation Mindset™ can work in ANY classroom with ALL students.

Visit <https://www.invent.org/> or connect with Kristin Thorsen, [kthorsen@invent.org](mailto:kthorsen@invent.org), today to learn how to unlock your students' and staffs' potential through Invention Education



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# Academic Decathlon

<https://www.ne-ad.org/>

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN

THE 2022-23 NEBRASKA ACADEMIC DECATHLON

**"The American Revolution and the New Nation"**

On behalf of the main sponsor (the Optimist Clubs of Nebraska) and the educational co-sponsors, your school is invited to participate in the 2021-22 Nebraska Academic Decathlon. The Regional level of competition will occur by January 21 and include online objective tests, a Super Quiz and Awards Ceremony.

The State Final is scheduled on February 17th (evening only) and 18th at a site to be determined.

**Nationals will be held in Frisco, Texas, April 27-29, 2023.**

A study materials brochure with order form is available on the [USAD website](#). All orders will go to USAD.

As was the case last year, NEAD will offer online scrimmages in your school's computer lab. We hope to have the opportunity for in-person scrimmages as well. All are tentatively scheduled for November 5 and December 10.

## **Academic Decathlon 2022–23 Curriculum**

U.S. Academic Decathlon® announced the overall curriculum theme for 2022-23 will be

**"The American Revolution and the New Nation"**.

- **SCIENCE:** The science topic will be an introduction to chemistry.
- **LITERATURE:** The curriculum will include critical reading, the novel *Wieland: or, the Transformation, an American Tale* by Charles Brockden Brown, and selected shorter pieces.
- **ART:** The art curriculum will address early American art.
- **MUSIC:** The music curriculum will introduce students to early American music.
- **SOCIAL SCIENCE:** The social science curriculum will address the American Revolution and the founding of the United States of America.
- **ECONOMICS:** The economics curriculum will cover fundamental economic concepts, microeconomics, and macroeconomics and will also include a thematic section on colonial and early American economies.



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- **MATHEMATICS:** The mathematics curriculum will cover algebra and trigonometry.\*

"The full subject area outlines will be posted on the [U.S. Academic Decathlon® website](#) on May 1 and will also appear in the U.S. Academic Decathlon® Study Guide, which will [begin shipping on May 15](#).

\* The 2022-23 mathematics curriculum and materials will be the same as were used for the 2019–20 U.S. Academic Decathlon®."

If you have questions about the 2022-23 Academic Decathlon Curriculum or the Nebraska Academic Decathlon Program's awards of student scholarships and its support programs for new schools, please contact me.

Vicki Deniston Reed, 531-239-0037, denistonreed@gmail.com

## Advanced Placement Resources

AP® Classroom resources can help teachers plan, teach, and assess student understanding from Day One of the course for the 2022-23 school year. Here's a quick reminder of the tools in AP Classroom that can support teaching and learning throughout the year:

- **Unit guides** provide an outline of the exact content and skills assessed on the AP Exam and include topic pages, which describe the content for each topic.
- **AP Daily** is a series of on-demand, short videos that teachers can assign to students, saving direct class time to focus on areas where students need more support. AP Daily videos are always visible and available to all students, including students in exam only sections, regardless of whether a teacher has assigned them.
- **Topic questions** are formative questions that teachers can use **as they teach each topic** to check student understanding of content and skills within that topic.
- **Progress checks** are formative assessments that teachers can use **at the end of each unit** to check student understanding of all content and skills within every topic of that unit. Progress checks contain both multiple-choice and free-response questions.
- The **question bank** is a searchable database of real AP questions that teachers can use to create customized practice for students at any time during the course. Assignments can be administered to students online or on paper.

Additionally, the **My Reports** section of AP Classroom can help teachers visualize student progress so you can prioritize areas for extra support.



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