

Titanic

By Meadow Pike

“Science rules,” as all students have heard at one point or another from Bill Nye, famous mechanical engineer, science communicator, and television presenter. At Perry High School, science really does rule...at an Olympic level. No, not the quadrennial athletic event that is all over national television. Science Olympiad! Science Olympiad has “23... events,” and “students compete in test-taking events, lab events, building events, or some combination of the three,” according to advisor for Perry High School Ryan Kiddey.

For the 2022-2023 school year, Science Olympiad Division C - the division Perry is in - events consist of Green Generation, Rocks and Minerals, Remote Sensing, Forestry, Fermi Questions, Dynamic Planet, Disease Detectives, Codebusters, Cell Biology, Botany, Astronomy, Anatomy and Physiology, It's About Time, Wifi Lab, Write It Do It, Forensics, Experimental Design, Chemistry Lab, Bridge Building, Detector Building, Wright Stuff, Trajectory, and Scrambler. The events are sorted into three categories: build events, lab events, and study events. The build events are the backbone of all scoring for Science Olympiad, and require a physical representation of the subject matter. For example, Trajectory is an event in which competitors build a catapult, and must calibrate it to go a certain distance and angle in order to hit several targets. The lab events are the visual flair to any Science Olympiad competition, and require data and graphs to prove a theory. For instance, Chemistry Lab is an event where competitors are asked to mix an acid and base and measure the point of equivalence, or measure the speed of a chemical reaction. And finally, the study events are the meat of Science Olympiad, and consist of a test in which competitors are allowed anywhere from a single sheet to an entire binder of notes to assist them in a written test that they take alongside a few other teammates. To illustrate, Cell

Biology is a written test in which competitors are allowed a single sheet of notes to complete a test with their partner. For the school that receives the lowest amount of points - won by scoring 1st place on the tests and build events - their school is featured on the board and they win that event. At the end of the tournament, after all of the events have been scored, the team with the lowest score wins the tournament. These tournaments are held across all of northeastern Ohio, and Perry's team plans on going to one every month that they can.

For Perry's team, Kiddey prefers to kick off the training with a Cardboard Boat Regatta. Any student, whether interested in joining Science Olympiad or not, is invited to build a boat out of two components: cardboard and duct tape. Several tests are applied to the boat: its ability to pass around obstacles, its buoyancy (or floating ability), and its speed. Past competitor Holly Nadinic calls her experience in both the Boat Regatta and Science Olympiad "super exciting, I always have a really great time and there's a lot of laughs." She and fellow competitor Izzy McKoon are both continuing their careers in the boat regatta and Science Olympiad for their senior years, and encourage any incoming high schoolers to join because "everybody gets along, there's so many inside jokes and we're all very laid back. It's cool to be in Science Olympiad." One of the awards from the last Boat Regatta was the "Titanic" award, given to those who sank their ships the best - and sank they did.

Fall is the kickoff for many extracurricular activities, and students are always encouraged to join as many as possible; however, students should definitely consider dedicating some of their time to a mentally-engaging, social team such as Science Olympiad. The experiences made there will be ones students are "never going to forget," according to Nadinic.