*Hello Rising Star Team Managers!*

It’s almost Tournament Time!!! For many of you this is a brand-new experience – this will be a wonderfully fun day for your team, but please read all the information below so you will be prepared on Tournament Day!

**A SPECIAL PLEA:**
We are ASKING for our teams, parents, and everyone who is attending to please try and consolidate as much as possible. Carpool. We know that’s not always possible, but if it is, you’ll be helping all of us out very much. We hate for teams to be late or stressed because they can’t find a parking spot!

**LOCATION AND CHECK-IN**
*(look for the LIME GREEN signs that say “Rising Stars” or “Pop Up”)*

Our tournament is being held Saturday, February 16, 2019 at:

**John Paul II High School**
900 Coit Road
Plano, TX 75075

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE CHECK IN 45 minutes before your first scheduled event !!!!**(Team Challenge or Instant Challenge).

**WE HAVE A SEPARATE RISING STARS CHECK-IN AREA.** The Rising Star area is UPSTAIRS in the far east side of the building (Senior House).

The closest entrance to the Rising Star check-in area will be the east entrance of the building. There is a staircase midway through the building OR an elevator in the center you can use. You may enter either the front or east entrance, but please make your way to the Rising Star area for check-in. If you have Instant Challenge first, you still need to check in at the Rising Star area before going to Instant Challenge. (They are in two different areas in the building - both are upstairs.)

PARKING CAN BE CHALLENGING ON TOURNAMENT DAY – especially if you arrive in the middle of the day!!! Please let your parents know that it can take up to 30 minutes to park during busy times.

Space is limited at this location! We will not have the “common” waiting areas like we had last year. If your team needs to take a break, there will be refreshments and a DIme store as well as other challenges to go watch!

**SCHEDULE & AWARDS:**

To make things easier this year, since our space is limited, we have divided our day into TWO PARTS. There will be TWO AWARDS ceremonies - at 11:00 AND 3:30.

Your team will attend the next ceremony after it has completed its Team Challenge performance and Instant Challenge.
 **TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:**

Right now, all the Rising Star Rooms have a color assigned to them - Blue, Green and Orange. Look at the schedule to determine which room you are in. You can see when your team will be performing their Team Challenge and Instant Challenge here:

<http://www.nextregiondi.com/2019-tournament-schedule>

You will go to the Prep Room for the color room you have been assigned 15 minutes before your performance time. If there is another team in that room, please wait until they leave before going in. The Prep Room appraiser will ask the team questions and go over your paperwork with you. In the Prep Room, a team member will draw a slip for their improv element. They will not learn what it is until they are in the performance room. ONLY TEAM MANAGERS AND TEAM may go into the Prep Room - no parents or siblings.

**IMPROV ITEM:**

Each Rising Star team must bring their improv items to tournament *(a scarf, a cloth shopping bag and a tube longer than 10")*. You will show those to the Prep Room Appraiser when you go there before your performance.

Once your team goes into the performance room, the team will place the improv items on the side or in front of their launch area. The Announcer will introduce the team, the team managers and then will tell the team what their improv element is for their performance. A team member should go pick it up from the side or front at that moment. When they return and place the item with their props, the Announcer will finish their speech and the team will start.

In the spirit of Destination Imagination, **we ask that you not help the teams with placing their objects or taking it to them**. The Team Managers have designated seats. Let them make a plan for placing the objects and having someone designated to go acquire the object.

Also - many have asked us whether they could work in ALL THREE improv items to their performance. In the spirit of the challenge, which is trying to teach the kids about improvisation and thinking on their feet, they should only the one item they drew in the Prep Room in their performance for the Appraisers.

**INSTANT CHALLENGE FOR RISING STARS:**

Follow the INSTANT CHALLENGE signs and arrows for the Instant Challenge section (upstairs). Arrive 15 minutes before your IC scheduled time. Only one Team Manager and the team members are allowed back in the Instant Challenge performance area. Parents cannot observe Instant Challenge.

**AWARDS CEREMONY:**

Please read this carefully.

“Morning Teams” have awards ceremony at 11:00 am in the small gym.

“Afternoon Teams” have an awards ceremony at 3:30 pm in the gym.

You will head to the NEXT awards ceremony after you have completed BOTH your Instant Challenge AND Team Challenge Performance.

You will receive your paperwork, feedback and appraiser comments at the Rising Star Award Ceremony!

We ask that teams start making their way into the Awards ceremony 10 minutes early.

Please join us at the awards ceremony! It’s the best part of the day! There is a DJ, a little movement and dancing and a lot of fun! Each team will be called up and recognized individually with awards for everyone! It is a fun end to a GREAT season!

AS A COURTESY TO OTHERS, please do not leave the Awards Ceremonies until all the teams have been recognized! This results in chaos, noise and is not respectful to the other teams who have been patiently waiting to receive their recognition!

**YOU MUST BRING FORMS TO TOURNAMENT:**

IMPORTANT: There are NO copy machines available to use at the tournament site! The nearest copy machine is several miles away at FedEx/Kinko’s near Custer and 121.

All Rising Star teams need to bring to Tournament:

o 5 Starry Showcase Form (found in in the back of your CHANGE IN DIRECTION Challenge)

o 2 copies of The Declaration of Independence

o 2 copies of The Team Photo form

o 2 copies for each Team Member and Team Manager: Media and Medical Release Forms

All forms can be found at <http://www.nextregiondi.com/2019-team-manager-tournament-info>

**FOOD / CONCESSIONS / STUFF TO BUY / FUN:**

There will be food and drinks sold at the Tournament. Please eat or drink in the cafeteria – the hallways aren’t for snacks!

At Tournament, there will be a DIme store selling fun things for the kids – lots of light up hats and shirts and pins and other things!  We also will be selling 2018 DI NExT Region shirts and pins and 2018 DI challenge pins!

**OTHER IMPORTANT INFO:**

**Even though Rising Stars is NOT competitive, we want to give your team an experience that helps them prepare for competitive DI in the future.** We ask that you allow them to have that experience on tournament day. Please let them set up their own props and set, fix their own costumes and solve their own problems with the set and props and costumes THEY MADE during THEIR performance. ***It won't be perfect. And that's okay.*** They will be proud because they did it all themselves. Last year, we experienced some Team Managers who wanted to coach from the sidelines during the performance or actually walk up and correct the kids when they made a mistake. That is not in the spirit of DI. The kids need to do all the work.

- Please keep an eye on your team members before and after your performance. We are renting John Paul II High School for this tournament and we need to respect the space and furnishings.

- Please do not use materials that will damage the floors. Anything your team spills or uses for the performance that is messy, must be taken out or cleaned up by your team.

- The performance rooms for Rising Stars will hold about 20 extra people. Please be courteous and let other families watch their teams when they are performing. If you want to view some other challenges – try one of the competitive challenges!

- A medical nurse will be available for minor medical emergencies

- All props, sets, material, etc. must be taken home with you.  No disposal of these items or TRASH on site.

- Lost and Found: Can be found at the Registration Desk.

**ONE LAST NOTE:**

This year, you’ve had a taste of what Destination Imagination is. If you really want to see DI in action, please take your teams and visit some of the competitive challenges.

Let your team get a taste of the future by seeing older kids compete. Last year, we heard from a lot of Rising Star parents that they weren’t sure they were allowed to go watch. Except for Instant Challenges, everything is open for public viewing! And our teams would LOVE an audience!

We hope you’ll have fun on Tournament Day and if you have any questions or concerns, please let us know!! See you February 16!

*Bridget Joyce
Charlotte Taylor
Stephanie Timiney*

Challenge Masters
Rising Stars
NExT Region
Destination Imagination