**WMS Science Olympiad**

**Raleigh Regional Tournament Information**

**EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW – SHORT VERSION**

**(Long version follows)**

**Coaches and Moms:** Mrs. Barlow and Mrs. Armstrong

**Location**: Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School, 2600 Rock Quarry Road, Raleigh, NC 27610

**Drop off**: Parents drop kids off at 7:30 am. Kids report directly to home base. Location of Homebase TBA – still waiting for tournament director to assign this. First event starts at 8:30.

**Pick** **Up**: Pick up after closing ceremony around 5:00 pm. Parents are encouraged to attend the awards ceremony with the kids, 4 – 5:00 pm. Early pick up at 3 pm after all events end. Kids will text/call with updates on schedule changes.

**Lunch**: Bring your lunch! A concession stand is usually open and there are usually a few food trucks, but the lines can be long.

**Spending Money**: Optional. May bring spending money for concessions and souvenirs.

**Attire**: Wear jeans/dark pants, closed-toed shoes, and team shirt. Lab events require long sleeves and long hair pulled back.

**Bring**: All constructed devices and study materials, something to do between events, lunch and snacks.

**Impound**: Check the schedule to see if/when your device needs to be impounded.

**Emergency Contact Info for Mrs. Barlow**: TEXT or CALL 252.341.9099. You can also reply to any announcement on the Remind list and it will go only to me.

**Join the Remind List**: Text @ah8d to 81010

**Wi-Fi**: Go to your settings. Type in the search bar WAKE-BYOD. No password required. This network will not appear in your list of available networks unless you have connected to it before. Cell service is spotty and using the Wi-Fi lets us communicate through Remind.

**WMS Science Olympiad Tournament Information**

**EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW – Detailed Version**

Dear Parents,

The Raleigh Science Olympiad Tournament is on Saturday, 2/1/2020! The kids have been busy studying, building, and preparing for this tournament and I am so proud of them! Our parent volunteers have done a terrific job at school and at home coaching the kids in their events. This week is it…the final push to prepare for the tournament. This sheet contains everything you need to know about tournament day.

If you are experiencing an NCSO tournament for the first time, you’ll want to **read every word** of this handout. If you are a veteran, well, you know the drill!

**What to expect**

Parents transport kids to Southeast Raleigh High School by 7:30 am. Kids and parents gather at our home base. The first event begins at 8:30. Kids look up their time and room number and go to their event a few minutes before it starts. In between events, kids report back to home base. After all events are done, we will stay for the awards ceremony in the gym. Kids should check in and out with Mrs. Barlow or Mrs. Armstrong, especially if they are going to watch a spectator event or out to the food trucks or leaving for the day with parents. We will store jackets, lunch boxes, and “stuff” at our home base. This tournament is **big** and there are lots of kids, coaches, parents, and tournament volunteers. At last count, there will be 40 middle school teams and 40 high school teams with 18+ students each with their own entourage of parents and coaches for a total of nearly 2000 people coming and going throughout the day. I expect all our kids to do their best, behave, support each other, and display good sportsmanship.

**Location / Transportation**

Parents will provide transportation for their own student.

The tournament is located at:

**Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School, 2600 Rock Quarry Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27610**

It is about a 35-minute drive from the Wakefield area. Please be on time Events are timed and students will not be allowed to make up an event if they miss it. THE CARPOOL LINE FOR THIS EVENT IS CRAZY LONG at 8:00 am. It often backs up a couple of miles from the school to the highway exit ramp. Consider using an app like Waze to find alternate routes that bring you in from Creech Road beside the school or the other side of Rock Quarry Road.

**Schedule**

I have attached the tournament schedule. We are considered a “Y” team. Our Y assignment will impact the time of day that our team attends an event period. Our original 1st period events are now 2nd period and vice versa. Our original 3rd period events are now 4th period and vice versa. Plan to have your child **arrive by 7:30 am or earlier and pick your child up at 5:00 pm**. THE CARPOOL LINE IS CRAZY LONG. PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO ARRIVE ON TIME or earlier! If your child has a cell phone, I will have them text or call you to let you know when the awards ceremony is ending. You can also pick your child up sooner if they finish sooner and need to skip the awards ceremony. **Parents are welcome to come stay with the team all day** or just come for the awards ceremony if they wish.

**Home Base / Arrival**

Upon arrival, REPORT DIRECTLY TO HOME BASE. Home Base is *usually* located in an alcove of lockers. It will be labeled with our school name. I will pass the exact location on to everyone via Remind as soon as they let coaches know this week. Kids/parents do NOT need to check in at a registration table – just come straight to home base. Kids will store all their stuff (lunches, equipment, notebooks, etc.) at home base and report back to home base in between events.

**Chaperones and Parents**

It would be fantastic if each child could have **one** parent with them. Parents can stay all day, part of the day, or drop your child off. I and other parent volunteers will be there to chaperone. Parents may also hang out at our home base. There is NO SEATING in Home Base. Parents that stay should bring a folding chair. I am so sorry for this…Please do not bring extra guests or extended family. There is little space and little for them to see as most events are in closed classrooms and you will likely not get to see the kids compete. It is also difficult to find things for small children to do. Please bring entertainment if you do need to bring the little ones (I understand childcare issues!). Also, bring phone chargers and/or back up batteries.

**Spectator Events**

Most of the events are closed to spectators, but a few are visible to the public and interesting to watch. Some building events are open to spectators in the gym and auditorium. There are also usually a few exhibits and booths from various science organizations.

**What to wear – very specific!**

Kids should wear jeans or dark colored pants, closed-toed shoes, and our super cool WMS Science Olympiad Team shirt. If you don’t have our team shirt, then wear a school shirt or royal blue and white. Kids in lab events need to have long sleeves – either a long-sleeved shirt or a jacket that can be worn during the event. Kids with long hair will need to pull it back into a ponytail for lab events.

**What to bring – very specific!**

Kids should bring any devices they have built or study materials they have created. Kids should also bring something to keep them busy (book, homework, games, etc.) during times when they do not have an event or have down time. Kids might want to bring spending money, but this is optional. There will be a merchandise/t-shirt table and concession stand with snacks and pizza, and food trucks. Cell phones and electronics are permitted outside of events, but students are at their own risk to keep up with these items, as WMS and NCSO are not responsible for theft or lost items. Cell phones should be OFF during events and are not permitted to be used as calculators or timing devices during events. Smart watches are not allowed in any of the events.

**Impound**

Certain events have required students to build a device to bring to the competition. Only some of them require impounding the device – putting it in “lock down” until competition time. Impound times are listed in the attached schedule. We are a “Y” team. Please be on time to check your device in.

Machines: 7:30 – 8:15

Mousetrap Vehicle: 7:30 – 8:15

**Support Team Members**

*You have been handpicked to train with the varsity team and are just as valuable as a member-in-training as are the varsity team members.*

You never know what can happen on tournament day that may prevent a Varsity team member from attending the tournament. I have had to sub in a support team member on the day of a tournament in the past! You are on alert! If you are not needed to fill a spot on the Varsity team, then I highly recommend that you stay with the team for the day and watch every event that you can. Walk around, observe the spirit of the teams, enjoy the camaraderie of being with kids just like you. Live the stories and tales we will tell in next year’s team meetings. Welcome to the mother ship. You will likely have an automatic spot on next year’s Varsity team and priority choice in events if you decide to return.

**Snacks**

Pack a few snacks in your lunch. There will be a Sign-Up Genius sent out this week for parents to bring in drinks and team snacks.

**Cell Service**

Last time I checked, cell service was spotty in the school and I often walk near an outer wall/door to get more bars. This will kill your batteries quickly. Search for the free Wi-Fi: WAKE-BYOD. You must search for it as it will not just show up in your list of available networks. Text whenever possible if you need to communicate with me. You can use my cell phone (on first page) or reply to any of my messages on the Remind list. Bring back up batteries and/or phone chargers. I learned the hard way in the first year.

**Lunch and Concessions**

**BRING LUNCH!** There will be snacks at our home base. There is a concession stand with pizza, snacks, and drinks at very reasonable prices. Gum and candy are ok, but they are not allowed in events. There are a few food trucks, but lines get long during the lunch period. A few miles down the road are a couple of questionable fast food places.

**Awards/Closing Ceremony**

There is an **awards ceremony beginning at 4:00 pm**. Everyone is invited to attend the closing ceremony. I encourage parents to attend this with the kids. Kids who do well (usually 1st through 8th place) will receive medals on the spot. If you must leave early, we will pick up any medals we may win. Kids will text and call you to keep you posted. You can also call or text me for updates.

Anyone can sign up for an account with Avogadro and pay $0.99 to view the awards screen live. I will have it on my laptop so that we can see the school names in case we can’t hear over the cheering. <https://app.avogadro.ws/nc/raleigh-regional-b/>

**Pick Up**

Please plan to pick your child up around **5:00 pm**. Kids will be encouraged to call or text to keep you posted if that should be earlier/later. I can also text/call you if your child does not have a phone. The last competitive event ends at 2:45 pm. **Early pick up time is 3:00 pm** if you choose not to stay for the awards ceremony. Please have your child check out with me so that I don’t go crazy trying to find them.

**Emergency Contact Number for Mrs. Barlow**

If you need to reach me for any reason, please TEXT or call**: 252.341.9099**. This is my personal cell phone number. Cell service is intermittent inside the building. I will check my phone periodically for your messages. FEEL FREE TO TEXT ME Kids will not be able to text or call you back if they are in an event, as phones are not permitted in events. Also reply to the Remind list and messages will come only to me, not the whole list.

**Student Behavior**

Students are expected to try their best, have fun, stay positive, learn, and observe/absorb everything they can about the tournament. Students are also expected to exhibit good sportsmanship, integrity and perseverance. 🡨 These qualities are more important to me than any medal or trophy. Students should represent our school in a way that will make us all proud to be on our team. Students should also follow all school and WCPSS rules during this event. It is important that students always let one of the adults at our home base know where they are going at all times.

More information on the schedule, location, teams, and home base assignments can be found on the Raleigh Tournament page: <https://www.sciencenc.com/tournaments/middle-high/locations/raleigh/>

Thank you so much for supporting the kids as they participate in this competitive science enrichment opportunity!

Contact me anytime via email or cell phone with questions.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Samantha Barlow

[sbarlow@wcpss.net](mailto:sbarlow@wcpss.net)

252.341.9099 (cell, ok to text)