

Do your kids need an outlet for their creativity? Plug into the world of DESTINATION IMAGINATION!

The Destination Imagination program encourages teams of learners to have fun, take risks, focus and frame challenges while incorporating STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), the arts and service learning. Our participants learn patience, flexibility, persistence, ethics, respect for others and their ideas, and the collaborative problem solving process. Teams may showcase their solutions at a tournament.

Imagination is more important than knowledge. - Albert Einstein

What is DI?

Destination Imagination (DI) is an extracurricular program sponsored by the school district for students interested in science, technology, engineering, math (STEM), the arts and community service. It is a fun activity that builds teamwork, creativity and planning skills and reinforces LISD's curriculum through project-based learning.

How does it work?

Students work in small teams for 2 to 3 months on a project, called a DI challenge, which involves research, designing and building, acting, script-writing, poetry and songs, and crafting costumes and props. Each team has a team manager, usually a parent volunteer, to facilitate, motivate and inspire, yet the team members do all the work, from concept to actual production. Teams present their unique solutions to a panel of DI appraisers at regional tournament competition. The top performers in each category advance to a Texas tournament. Top placing teams at the state tournament qualify for global competition.

Do the younger kids compete with the older kids?

No. They are divided into levels determined by grade. Students in K-2 make up the Rising Stars (non-competitive teams). They have one challenge and present their solution at a regional tournament for an evaluation. They are not scored and their participation ends at this point.

Students in grades 3-12 make up the competitive teams and are assigned to one of three levels: elementary, middle, and secondary. There are 2 components to the competition: the Instant Challenge, which emphasizes improvisational skills and the ability to "think on your feet," and the Team Challenge. Team members choose from 6 challenges to prepare for the Team Challenge. They compete with other teams in their level who are performing the same challenge.

What is the cost to parents?

The registration and tournament fees for participation are funded by the district. Each challenge has a maximum cost for all items included in the end product. For example, many challenges cap the total cost at \$125.00 for all materials used in scenery, costumes, props, and structures. This cost is funded by the families participating, but may consist of garage sale prices attached to used items on hand and recyclables. Any supplies used in making scenery, props, etc., but not included in the final product, are not counted in the cost.

The local region, TVNC-DI, offers 2-3 workshops throughout the season leading up to tournament day to teach team members and team managers skills. These workshops are at an additional cost to teams that range from \$25 per team to \$15 per participant. They are recommended but not required.

Who manages the teams and where do they meet?

The teams are managed by a parent volunteer. LISD provides training at no cost to the parents. Most teams meet at the home of one of the team members; however, other arrangements are sometimes made to meet at the school, a church or other public facility such as a library. Meeting times are determined by the team parents, but typically range in length from 45 minutes for Rising Stars to 1 ½ -2 hours for competitive teams.

When does it start?

Teams begin forming in September of each school year.