

# Creative Minds Wanted!

Are you Technical? An Actor? A Singer? A Comedian? Do you like to build things? Tell Stories? Perform? Are you good at thinking on your feet?

Then Destination ImagiNation® is the program for you.  
Teams are now forming!!!!

## ***What is Destination Imagination?***

Destination Imagination (DI) is an extracurricular program that emphasizes creativity and team-based problem solving skills and life skills for students in kindergarten through college. The goal of DI is to cultivate the creative problem solving process and make it an unconscious part of students' everyday lives. Teams participate in both the Team Challenge and Instant Challenge portions of the competition. A creative solution to the Team Challenge is developed by team members over several months and presented at competition in a skit using dramas, music, art, and engineering. Team Challenges build student confidence through commitment to task, group interaction and independence. Instant Challenges are designed to foster teamwork and quick, creative, strategic thinking skills. Both the Team challenges and Instant Challenges provide and promote opportunities to develop life skills that are essential in our ever-changing world. Competition starts at the local level in February and culminates at the Global Finals in May. An overview of the team challenges are included in this packet.

## ***Why is Destination Imagination Important?***

DI promotes creativity, brainstorming, divergent thinking skills, and presentation skills. Teamwork is fostered as team members learn budgeting life skills, and research skills. As they work through problem solving, they learn project management, knowledge application, and confidence. DI gives children a chance to shine and show their talents in many areas. Not only that, it is FUN!

## ***Sounds great, but I'm not sure my child is "right" for DI***

There is no typical "DI" participant. Some participants are very artistic, while others aren't. Some participants love being the center of attention, while others prefer going unnoticed in the background. Some participants love building things while others prefer to write. There are no special talents required except for a desire to participate. There is a way for every participant to contribute and every participant will gain from the DI experience. Participants will enjoy using the skills they already have and are often surprised when they discover unknown talents or interests.

## ***Team Managers***

All teams must have at least one team manager (two is recommended). Team Managers are typically a teacher or parent of a Team Member. Without Team Managers we don't have teams. Don't worry if you don't know anything about the challenge the team chooses to work on. It is not your challenge to solve. In fact, the best team managers are those who know very little about the challenge since they aren't tempted to interfere in the team's solution. Team Managers can teach skills or have someone come in to teach skills. They are not responsible for solving the challenge. Southeast 6 region offers Team Manager training classes throughout the program year.

***What does it take to form a team? Student Qualifications? Parent Involvement?***

A maximum of seven students may be placed on an age appropriate team. The only qualifications are willingness to work, creative ideas and the ability to attend meetings regularly. The Team Manager helps the students stay on schedule, gather materials, and guide them through the problem-solving process. The Team Manager DOES NOT help the teams develop their solution. The time commitment is about one to three hours each week in addition to meetings depending on the age level of the students, team managers availability and the amount of time that the team wants to invest in it's solution. The team's time commitment usually increases in January as the first tournament approaches. During these weekly meeting teams will prepare a solution to present at the tournament.

**Parents must make every effort to have the student at every practice or work session. They may not contribute ideas or help prepare any part of the team's solution.**

***Costs at a Glance***

There is a cost of \$45 per team member to participate. This includes instant challenge materials, a region t shirt, and region pin. Each challenge has its own cost limit ranging from \$100 to \$175. There is no hard and fast rule but teams can expect to spend up to double the cost limit of the solution. The cost of the team's solution is shared equally by all team members. If a team advances to the State Tournament then there are Tournament fee and T-shirt costs associated with attending the state tournament.

***How can I sign up??***

Fill out and turn in the attached application interest form by the date listed. Filling out the form does not guarantee a student a spot. Teams are limited by the number of team managers. If there is more student interest than spots, try outs may be held to be placed on a team. The only way a child is guaranteed a spot is if the parent volunteers to be a Team Manager.

# Birnham Woods Elementary School



## Student Application

Please fill out this form in its entirety if your student wants to participate on a Destination Imagination (DI) team. Filling out this application does not guarantee your student will be placed on a DI team. The only way to guarantee your student has a spot on a DI team is to volunteer to be a team manager.

**FORM MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 10, 2019**

**Please print neatly in black ink**

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_ T-SHIRT SIZE \_\_\_\_\_

HOMEROOM TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT BEST PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

Has student participated in DI before? (circle one)      Yes      No

If yes, grade? \_\_\_\_\_

Is student classified as GT in any subject? (circle one)      Yes      No

*Being classified as GT or previous participation does not a guarantee a spot on a DI team*

### Challenges

Students will be on teams of 2-7 members. Each team will compete in one challenge. We will try our best to place all students on the team of their choice depending on the number of students involved and the number of teams we are able to have.

Please number the challenges in order from 1-6 with 1 being your first choice and 6 being your last choice. If you are unwilling to participate in a particular challenge, please leave it blank but know that this might prohibit you from being included in the program.

\_\_\_\_\_ Technical – The Big Fix.

\_\_\_\_\_ Fine Arts – Picture This

\_\_\_\_\_ Scientific – First Encounter.

\_\_\_\_\_ Improvisational – To The Rescue

\_\_\_\_\_ Engineering – In The Cards.

\_\_\_\_\_ Service Learning – It’s About Time

I, (parent’s name) \_\_\_\_\_, understand the commitment my child is making and agree that my child is able to meet these requirements. My child will be able to regularly attend team practices, the regional tournament (February 15, 2020), and the state or global tournament if the team qualifies. I also agree to all financial obligations and to provide transportation for my child from all team practices and to/from all events.

### **Parents - Please INITIAL EVERY statement to confirm your acceptance**

\_\_\_\_\_ DI is an opportunity for your child to improve critical thinking skills and collaboratively problem solve in a team setting. However, it is a time-consuming activity! **Students will meet once per week (3:15-5:15), starting September 24.** More meetings WILL be necessary closer to the tournament date (Feb. 15th).

\_\_\_\_\_ DI is a team competition and does not work without all team members present for all meetings and competitions. Attendance at meetings, minus illness or other extraordinary circumstances, are mandatory. I will also respect the team manager’s time and be waiting to pick up my student at the end of meetings at the designated pick up spot. Consistent absences or being late may result in the student being removed from the team, with no refund.

\_\_\_\_\_ **The Membership Fee for DI is \$45 paid upon placement on a DI team.** This covers the cost of participation, tournament t-shirt, and instant challenge supplies. Your team is required to finance their own costs to complete the central challenge (i.e. props, costumes, building supplies, etc.). These costs will be split evenly among all team members.

\_\_\_\_\_ Behavior should not be disruptive to the DI process and should be respectful to all other students and team manager. If the student fails to meet behavior expectations, the student will be removed from the team with no refund.

PARENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## Parents, Are you willing to be a Team Manager?

We are limited by the number of people available to coach teams. Having parents as team managers will increase availability of the program to more students and is the only way to guarantee your child membership in a DI team. Team managers must be able to be at the school for team meetings by 3:00 pm or schedule with team parents an alternative meeting place and time away from campus. If you are willing to be a team manager, please fill out the information below. If you cannot participate as manager, please skip this section.

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent email \_\_\_\_\_

Your Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parents, please initial below showing you understand the responsibilities of team manager.

\_\_\_\_ I am willing to be team manager and attend all meetings and competitions (Southeast 6 Regional Tournament is 2/15/20 at Oak Ridge High School; State tournament is 4/3/20-4/5/20 at University of Texas Arlington; Global Finals is 5/19/20-05/23/20 in Kansas City, MO).

\_\_\_\_ I will comply with the steps necessary to fill out a CISD Volunteer background check.

\_\_\_\_ I will be able to attend the Team Manager Training offered on one of the following dates:  
Saturday September 28th Experienced Managers ONLY (9am-11am Oak Ridge High School 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Campus)

Tuesday October 8th (6pm-8:30pm Kaufman Elementary Library)

Saturday November 2nd (9am-12pm Oak Ridge HS 9th Grade Campus)

Saturday December 7th (9am-11am Oak Ridge HS 9th Grade Campus)

\_\_\_\_ I will comply with ALL CISD rules and regulations

\_\_\_\_ I will travel with my team to Regional, State, and Global levels.

\_\_\_\_ I will serve as a Room Sponsor at State and Global levels if reached.

\_\_\_\_ I will offer a fun learning experience for students to enjoy.

I, (your name) \_\_\_\_\_ am willing to manage my child's Destination Imagination team. I understand all of the responsibilities above and will comply with all CISD rules and regulations.