

# A+ Keeping It All Together

Kimberly Sloane

[kimberly.sloane@gmail.com](mailto:kimberly.sloane@gmail.com)

A dark blue diagonal graphic that starts from the bottom left corner and extends towards the top right corner, covering the lower half of the slide.



# BEFORE WE GET STARTED

Register your attendance.

*Complete this form for each session you attend.*

Session numbers  
are in the program.

CAP  
CON  
2024



Rosters

# A Little About Me



- I just finished my 24th year in education.
- I've been at Chireno for the last 17 years and served as the district (2-12) UIL coordinator.
- Moving to Center HS next year
- I typically host our district meet as well as a couple other local district meets for locals schools.
- My favorite role is "Mimi" - I have 6 grandbabies - 3 boys and 3 girls
- I love Disney and SFA Basketball!

# Capital Conference Files

My presentation files for the conference - and if you ask for anything throughout the year, I'll add it here. :-)

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aCzV7Xh8vJ08QaqsFl6Xc\\_jlUN\\_cs0PG?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aCzV7Xh8vJ08QaqsFl6Xc_jlUN_cs0PG?usp=sharing)

# WHAT?!?!? 79 events (if I counted right)?!?!?

A+ Art - Grades 4	A+ Dictionary Skills - Grades 7	A+ Mathematics - Grades 6	A+ Number Sense - Grades 6	A+ Science - Grades 6
A+ Art - Grades 5	A+ Dictionary Skills - Grades 8	A+ Mathematics - Grades 7	A+ Number Sense - Grades 7	A+ Science - Grades 7
A+ Art - Grades 6	A+ Editorial Writing - Grades 6	A+ Mathematics - Grades 8	A+ Number Sense - Grades 8	A+ Science - Grades 8
A+ Art - Grades 7	A+ Editorial Writing - Grades 7	A+ Modern Oratory - Grades 6	A+ One-Act Play	A+ Social Studies - Grades 5
A+ Art - Grades 8	A+ Editorial Writing - Grades 8	A+ Modern Oratory - Grades 7	A+ Oral Reading - Grades 4	A+ Social Studies - Grades 6
A+ Calculator Applications - Grades 6	A+ Impromptu Speaking - Grades 6	A+ Modern Oratory - Grades 8	A+ Oral Reading - Grades 5	A+ Social Studies - Grades 7
A+ Calculator Applications - Grades 7	A+ Impromptu Speaking - Grades 7	A+ Music Memory - Grades 2	A+ Oral Reading - Grades 6	A+ Social Studies - Grades 8
A+ Calculator Applications - Grades 8	A+ Impromptu Speaking - Grades 8	A+ Music Memory - Grades 3	A+ Oral Reading - Grades 7	A+ Spelling - Grades 3
A+ Chess Puzzle - Grades 2-8	A+ Listening - Grades 5	A+ Music Memory - Grades 4	A+ Oral Reading - Grades 8	A+ Spelling - Grades 4
A+ Chess Puzzle - Grades 3	A+ Listening - Grades 6	A+ Music Memory - Grades 5	A+ Ready Writing - Grades 3	A+ Spelling - Grades 5
A+ Chess Puzzle - Grades 4	A+ Listening - Grades 7	A+ Music Memory - Grades 6	A+ Ready Writing - Grades 4	A+ Spelling - Grades 6
A+ Chess Puzzle - Grades 5	A+ Listening - Grades 8	A+ Music Memory - Grades 7	A+ Ready Writing - Grades 5	A+ Spelling - Grades 7
A+ Chess Puzzle - Grades 6	A+ Maps, Graphs & Charts - Grades 5	A+ Music Memory - Grades 8	A+ Ready Writing - Grades 6	A+ Spelling - Grades 8
A+ Chess Puzzle - Grades 7	A+ Maps, Graphs & Charts - Grades 6	A+ Number Sense - Grades 4	A+ Ready Writing - Grades 7	A+ Storytelling - Grades 2
A+ Chess Puzzle - Grades 8	A+ Maps, Graphs & Charts - Grades 7	A+ Number Sense - Grades 5	A+ Ready Writing - Grades 8	A+ Storytelling - Grades 3
A+ Creative Writing - Grade 2	A+ Maps, Graphs & Charts - Grades 8			
A+ Dictionary Skills - Grades 5				
A+ Dictionary Skills - Grades 6				

A+ ACADEMICS

A+ Academics Home

- Calendar
- Events
- A+ Meets
- Guides for Meet Directors
- Additional Resources
- Shared Materials
- Forms

A+ ACADEMICS CONTACT INFO

A+ Academics Director:  
Lisa Parker

Email:  
aplus@uiltexas.org

Department Phone:  
512-471-5883

## A+ Academics



### Quick Links

- FAQs
- A+ Calendar
- Order A+ Study Materials
- A+ Contest Rules

Every great journey begins with a first step, and the visionaries who built the League recognized that the first steps toward educational excellence must begin early. Academic competition for younger students was a part of the UIL program almost from the beginning, with the first junior division Declamation contest for students aged 10-14 in 1913. The first competition for students under age 10 was Spelling, which began a sub-junior division in 1921.

The program of academic competition for elementary, middle school and junior high officially became "A+ Academics" in 2008. A+ Academics includes 20 different events for grades 2-8. These events span the curriculum - they are designed to complement and expand upon what students learn in the classroom, both through learning specific subject knowledge, and through learning skills that are valuable in many disciplines. Approximately 3,000 Texas schools participate in A+ Academics, competing in more than 300 district meets each year.

#### A+ CAMPUS REGISTRATION 2024-2025

Each A+ participating school must register with the UIL state office each year. A+ Handbooks will be emailed to coordinators once their registration is processed.

**REGISTER HERE**

#### A+ DISTRICT MEET ORDER FORM

# UIL Website

- Bookmark: <https://www.uiltexas.org/aplus>
- Register as A+ Coordinator (this is how you get the handbook)
- Add the email address to your contacts

# Organization is key!

For me this means

- a Google Folder
- A Binder (2" and pretty)
- To Do Lists
- Calendar

\*\*Screenshots of Google Folder at end of presentation\*\*

# Where to Start

- Recruit Coaches (Make sure you know if there is a stipend and how much/criteria to earn)
- Find out when/where district is (sometimes this is work as UIL does not set Elementary and JH Districts)
  - There should be a meeting. You need to be at that meeting.
- Inventory/gather materials
- Help coaches recruit
- Find out meal/snack policy for district

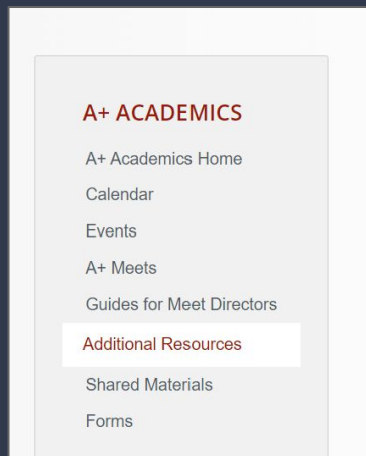


# The District Planning Meeting

Find out

1. Date(s)
2. Location(s)
3. Any events at home school?  
(Writing/Spelling)
4. Who will run events?
5. Will all events be offered? (Music 7/8)
6. Will any events be combined? (Modern Oratory)

# Materials



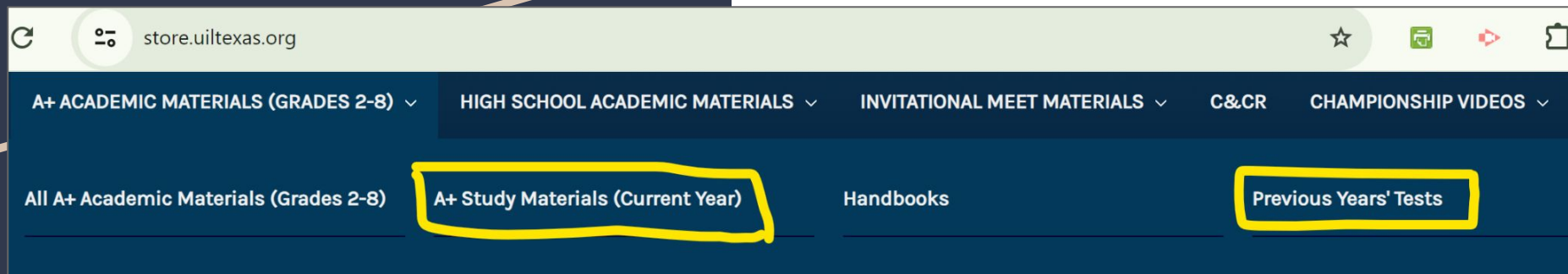
UIL Store

<https://store.uil texas.org/>

A+ Additional Resources

<https://www.uil texas.org/aplus/resources>

\*Also Events & Guides for Meet Directors\*



# Regular Contact

- Create an email group with your coaches (and admin if you want to be sure they stay in the loop)
- Share a Google Folder with the group
- Email contest date(s) as soon as you know
- Have them keep a practice log (I use a Google Form)
- Give them a deadline that is at least a week before your deadline for entries
- Regularly check in - how's it going? Do you need anything (not just study materials - think rulers, binders, chess boards, etc)?

# Collecting Entries

- Tip - Don't use email - emails get lost
- I create a shared document and have everyone directly enter their students.
- Check for conflicts with students - it ALWAYS happens
- Check eligibility

# Entries to District

Know what system is being used by your district

- Google Form
- TexasAcademics
- Tabroom
- Speechwire

If you need an account - have login information well before deadline and test it.

Start entering entries as soon as they arrive.

If possible, send official entries to coaches to double check you.

# Preparing for District

- Take as many adults as you can
- Small schools - experienced UIL High school students for volunteer hours are great for babysitting kids and getting them from point A to B while teachers direct, assist, and grade events
- Permission forms
  - I put what events each student is competing and the time of that event on the form for parent info and to double check myself on conflict pattern
  - Will there be a concession stand? If so, let parents know and send menu if possible (back of permission form)
  - Electronics policy
  - I give alternates form and boldly mark that they will only go if student doesn't show up (Be sure that's your policy)

# Preparing for District

- Schedules - make copies for teachers and students.
- \*I give teachers schedules before and again on the bus\*
- \*I highlight students events on the schedule so they can quickly find their events and know location if there won't be guides\*
- \*I highlight adults schedules of where they should be as well\*
- Meals/Snacks
- Will you be feeding students? Giving them meal money?
- Entertainment
- Board games, cards, coloring pages, etc.

# Preparing for District

- Roll Call Sheets for bus(es)
- Take lots of pictures - group pictures, event/team pictures, bus, holding area, etc.
- Know how awards will be handled



# After District

- Share results with admin, website manager, social media manager, newspaper, etc
- Plan awards ceremonies/rewards
- Thank sponsors and anyone that helped (Bus drivers, parents, high school students). This could be thank you card, email, etc.
- Thank host site. It's a lot of work!

# Fun Stuff



Consider items such as these to help build excitement:

- Awards Ceremony
- Certificates
- Share on Social Media (with admin permission)
- Field trip
- Team shirts

# Bonus Tip

Teacher turnover is CrAzY!!! Scan everything you buy!

If coaches have materials, try to get a copy and scan.

# My Google Folder

... > UIL > ChirenoElementary ▾

✓ ☰ ⓘ

Type ▾ People ▾ Modified ▾

Name ↑	Owner	Last modified ▾	File size	
VirtualMeet2	me	Jun 5, 2024 me	—	⋮
VirtualMeet3	me	Jun 5, 2024 me	—	⋮
2024 UIL Results	me	Jun 5, 2024 me	14 KB	⋮
Chireno Entries	me	Jun 5, 2024 me	4 KB	⋮
Chireno UIL Practice Form (Responses)	me	Jun 5, 2024 me	4 KB	⋮
Chireno UIL Practice Form.zip	me	Jun 5, 2024 me	155 KB	⋮
District Jobs	me	Jun 5, 2024 me	2 KB	⋮
Elementary Coaches	me	Jun 5, 2024 me	5 KB	⋮
Entries	me	Jun 5, 2024 me	3 KB	⋮
FieldTripLunches	me	Jun 5, 2024 me	2 KB	⋮
FieldTripPermission Form	me	Jun 5, 2024 me	3 KB	⋮
Meet Information	me	Jun 5, 2024 me	2 KB	⋮
Parent letter	me	Jun 5, 2024 me	2 KB	⋮

# Coach Signup/Record

*\*\*If you are willing/able to coach one grade that I have on a grouping, but not another, just note that under sponsor. Example: If someone wants to take 7th grade science, but not 8th\**

Event	Grade	"Teams"	Sponsor
Art	4/5/6/7/8	Each grade is a separate team	
Calculator Applications	6		
Calculator Applications	7/8	Each grade is a separate team	
Chess	2/3/4/5/6	Each grade is a separate team	
Chess	7/8	Each grade is a separate team	
Creative Writing	2		
Dictionary Skills	5/6	Each grade is a separate team	
Dictionary Skills	7/8	Each grade is a separate team	
Editorial Writing	6		
Editorial Writing	7/8	Each grade is a separate team	
Impromptu Speaking	6/7/8	One team, all 3 grades combined	
Listening	5/6	Each grade is a separate team	
Listening	7/8	Each grade is a separate team	
Maps, Graphs, Charts	5/6	Each grade is a separate team	
Maps, Graphs, Charts	7/8	Each grade is a separate team	
Mathematics	6	Each grade is a separate team	
Mathematics	7/8	Each grade is a separate team	
Modern Oratory	6/7/8	One team, all 3 grades combined	
Music Memory	2		
Music Memory	3/4	Each grade is a separate team	
Music Memory	5/6	Each grade is a separate team	
Number Sense	4		
Number Sense	5/6	Each grade is a separate team	

How I collect entries (I highlight when I enter them in district)

A1:B1 JUNIOR HIGH - Jan 17

	A	B	C	D	E
1	JUNIOR HIGH - Jan 17				
2	Time	Event	Entries	Alternate	
3	Tuesday, Jan 16	Editorial 6	Lay		
4	Tuesday, Jan 16	Editorial 7	Jos Fer		
5	Tuesday, Jan 16	Editorial 8	Bar Kin		
6	Tuesday, Jan 16	Ready Writing 7	Jos Anc		
7	Tuesday, Jan 16	Ready Writing 8	Cal Bl		
8		Spelling 7	Cin Ma		
9		Speling 8	Jar Ba		
10	3:30-4:30	Art 7/8			
11		Maps, Graphs 7/8	8th Da		2 teams
12		Music 7/8			
13		Number Sense 7	Kyl Ha		
14		Number Sense 8			
15	3:30 - 5:00	Oral Reading 8			
16		Impromptu Speaking	So Ba		
17	4:30 - 5:30	Calculator 6/7/8	Ce Da		3 teams
18		Listening 7/8	7th 8th Ca		2 teams
19			8th Wa Ba		

# Practices

Note: I collect this in a form - couldn't find it to share :-)

	B	C	D	E	F	
1	Name	Division	Date of Practice	Times	Event(s)	Student(s)
2	B	Elementary/Junior High	10/19/2023	3:00 - 4:00	Ready Writing (3rd and 4th)	
3	B	Elementary/Junior High	10/26/2023	3:00-4:00	Ready Writing (3rd & 4th)	
4	B	Elementary/Junior High	11/2/2023	3:00-4:00	Ready Writing (3rd and 4th)	
5	B	Elementary/Junior High	11/9/2023	3:00 - 4:00	Ready Writing (3rd & 4th)	
6	B	Elementary/Junior High	12/7/2023	3:00 - 4:00	Ready Writing (3rd and 4th)	
7	B	Elementary/Junior High	12/14/2023	3:00-4:00	Ready Writing (3rd and 4th)	
8	C	Elementary/Junior High	10/18/2023	7:20-7:50	spelling	
9	C	Elementary/Junior High	10/25/2023	7:20-8:00	Spelling	
10						
	C	Elementary/Junior High	11/8/2023	7:20-7:50	spelling 7th-8th	
11	C	Elementary/Junior High	11/9/2023	7:25-7:45	Impromptu Speaking	
12	C	Elementary/Junior High	11/29/2023	7:15-7:45	Spelling	
13						
	C	Elementary/Junior High	12/6/2023	7:00-7:30	Spelling & Oral Reading	
14	C	Elementary/Junior High	12/6/2023	3:20-3:45	Oral reading	
15						
	C	Elementary/Junior High	12/13/2023	7:00-7:30	Spelling	
16	C	Elementary/Junior High	11/30/2023	7:20-7:45	Impromptu Speaking	
17	C	Elementary/Junior High	10/16/2023	3-4pm	Listening Skills 5/6	
18	C	Elementary/Junior High	10/23/2023	3-4pm	5/6 Listening Skills	
19	C	Elementary/Junior High	11/6/2023	3-4pm	5/6 Listening skills	
20	C	Elementary/Junior High	10/16/2023	2-2:45pm	3rd Grade Storytelling	
21	C	Elementary/Junior High	10/23/2023	2-2:45pm	3rd grade storytelling	

# My Binder

When you are at contest and need information fast, you don't want to depend on digital:

- Handbook
- List of coaches
- District Meet Minutes/Notes
- Almost everything in the Google Folder
- Permission forms



# Q & A - Round table

Questions? Other tips I  
didn't share?

# Virtual Challenge Meets

... > UIL > Chirer

✕ 1 selected ✨ 👤+

Name ↑

 VirtualMeet2

 VirtualMeet3



# THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING

Registration link,  
presentations and handouts  
are available on the website.

*Remember to register your  
attendance for each session.*

CAP  
CON  
2024



Handouts & More

