



The Barrington Station Scholastic Bowl Team



The moderator prepares for the competition.

Barrington Station Scholastic Bowl

BUZZ! “THE VISIGOTHS!” comes the answer. “Correct for Station”, says the Scholastic Bowl moderator, “and your bonus questions are”

The category could be math, music, mythology, or any number of topics. So goes a typical match of questions and answers in Scholastic Bowl, a fast-paced, buzzer-based team sport at Barrington’s Station and Prairie Middle Schools, as well as other middle and high schools in the region. Station coach and extended math teacher Jeff Price leads a team of more than two dozen students from 6th, 7th and 8th grades.

Annmarie Dymon, the parent of a 6th-grader, says Scholastic Bowl is a great academic outlet for her son, Chase. “Scholastic Bowl has provided Chase with the opportunity for leadership and academic growth, in a competitive and fun environment. I am

sure we will see benefits of Scholastic Bowl for years to come.”

Practice begins in the fall for competition season that stretches from January to May. Teams of 4-5 students play against other schools. Single matches take less than an hour, with 20-24 “tossup” questions plus bonuses. Multi-school tournaments last a full day of intense competition. “It is about growing the students individually in their love of learning, and learning as a team to support each other, building expertise on key subjects to succeed in competition”, said Price. “I am often still figuring out the question when the team has answered and moved on,” says Diane Bergen, whose 8th-grade daughter Abigail is Captain of Station’s A Team. “The Scholastic Bowl experience has been a positive, defining experience for Abigail in middle school.”



Jeff Price is an Extended Math teacher at Station. He has coached scholastic bowl for a total of 21 years, taking over the Station program in 2004. His Station teams have won two IESA Class AA scholastic bowl state championships, and NAQT’s Middle School National Championship in 2013. He was awarded with a BJWC Character Counts award in 2018.

Jeff Price has been a Scholastic Bowl coach for 21 years, the past 15 at Station, with a two-year stint at Prairie prior to that. Under his leadership, Station won the State Championship twice in recent years, in 2013 and 2017. Station hosts one of the largest annual tournaments, the “Barrington Invitational”, which fields nearly 60 teams from the region. In 2018 tournaments, Station’s team has consistently placed in the top three; they earned the Conference Championship in April. Also, in April, Station ranked #1 out of 192 teams nationally in Thinking Cap Quiz-bowl’s “America Answers” contest.

Scholastic Bowl has been an Illinois Elementary Schools Association (IESA) sanctioned activity since 1989 and has changed little since then. Station and Prairie have been participating in their State Series since 1997. 



Annmarie Dymon and son Chase.



Diane Bergen and daughter Abigail.