

Update #3 – November 12

Dear Teachers,

This is an important email, so please read it and save the information.

1. Attached is the Championship Handbook with lots of information about the competition. Note that page 27 (Compliance Check list) is missing.... we will send that to you soon.
2. If you haven't already made hotel arrangements, please do so soon. Notice that the hotel list included in this handbook is slightly revised from what we emailed you earlier. We took several hotels off the original list based on advice from our local tourism bureau. If you reserved rooms at a hotel that isn't on this list, you may want to think twice. (Several of the previously listed hotels were right next to a LATE night college bar....probably not the best environment for your students!).
3. We will be hosting a team Video contest and the videos will be featured as part of Friday night's "Celebrate BEST" activities. The rules for the video contest will be coming to you very soon. The contest is not mandatory, but we hope many of the teams will have fun with this concept and participate by creating a video.
4. We will be web streaming the competition again this year. We will send you the web link to distribute to your 'fans' as soon as it is set up.
5. We have 55 teams competing this year - the largest South's BEST ever! Because of this large number, we are only going to have 6 matches per team in the seeding rounds. (Typically, we allow 8 matches in the seeding rounds). This may affect your team's strategy, so please let your students know about this adjustment. As before, the top 14 teams from seeding will go on to the semi-final matches. The two additional teams to advance to semi-finals will come from two wildcard matches based on notebook scores. The 16 teams in the semi-finals will each have 3 matches. The top 4 teams will then advance to the championship rounds - again, 3 matches.
6. BEST Award teams - if you haven't already done so, please email me with your time preference for oral presentation on Friday, Dec. 11. See attached for the current schedule showing what is still available.

I'll be sending information more regularly from now until the competition, so please check your email and save these updates.

Again, we look forward to seeing you all in December. If there's anything we can do to help you plan your trip here, please let me know. We have a great local Tourism Bureau in Auburn that stands ready to help you. They are even one of our program sponsors, so they really do want to help make your trip a great success.

Best regards,

Mary Lou Ewald