



**DESTINATION  
IMAGINATION.**



Dear Parent(s):

Your child has expressed his/her desire to try out for Destination Imagination at DMS or BJHS for the 2019-20 school year. DI at BJHS and DMS has grown over the last 19 years to become one of the most well-respected programs in the state, and teams from BJHS have won at Globals in 2014 and 2012! I look forward to another wonderful year of creative problem solving with more top-notch students! You can learn more about DI by visiting [www.destinationimagination.org](http://www.destinationimagination.org) and also state information at <http://www.dialabama.org/>.

**Please read the information in this letter and the obligations listed on the back of this letter CAREFULLY before returning the permission slip below. NO DMS OR BJHS STUDENT WILL BE PLACED ON A DI TEAM WITHOUT A SIGNED AGREEMENT FORM!!** All students should also indicate their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice for the challenge they'd like to participate in! The number of teams that are in place this year depends on the number of parents that volunteer to manage or co-manage a team! Please indicate on your child's application form if you'd be interested in (or at least open to the possibility of!) being a team manager or a co-team manager.

DI is a time-consuming activity! Although practice times can be flexible, students who are involved in several extracurricular activities already should give serious thought to the decision to be on a DI team. Unlike basketball, there is no "bench" to pull from if team members are not present and team members cannot be replaced if they drop out mid-year. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. Email is the best way— [rdauma@madisoncity.k12.al.us](mailto:rdauma@madisoncity.k12.al.us).

Thank you!

*Robin Dauma*

DMS and BJHS DI Sponsor

**RETURN PACKET TO MRS. DAUMA (BJHS-C113) OR MRS. HUGHES (DMS-114) NO LATER THAN 8:00 AM ON AUGUST 30!**

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge Choices: 1st:** \_\_\_\_\_ **2nd:** \_\_\_\_\_ **3rd:** \_\_\_\_\_ Read [synopses](#) to find out about this year's choices!

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/BJHSDMSDIapp1819> or [CLICK HERE](#) to enter student data. Application will NOT be considered complete unless this data is submitted.

**FOR PARENTS: Parent Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Yes, I am interested in being a DI team manager/co-manager this year. Please contact me to discuss the details! \*FYI - the number of DI teams we have is determined by the number of parent team managers who volunteer*

**Student and parent signatures below indicate that you**

**1. Have read the DI student and parent obligations (listed/described on all 4 pages of this packet!)**

**2. Completely understand the August-May requirements for DI, including (but not limited to):**

STUDENTS: attending meetings (DI should be respected just like an athletic team/band/drama practice!)

following school policies and respecting the decisions of your team manager

PARENTS: attending the **Team/Parent Orientation Meeting on Thursday, September 13**

paying the \$40 DI Activity Fee by September 27

communicating with your child's team manager about meetings, supplies, etc.

NOT scheduling conflicts for Regional Tournament, State Tournament, or Global Finals dates

BOTH students and parents: being willing to either pay for or fundraise (throughout the year AND especially in April & May) for Global Finals!

Parent name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student name \_\_\_\_\_ Student signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark the meeting time options using the following scale to indicate the best/worst times for you/your child to attend DI meetings (based on your/your child's PROBABLE, USUAL schedule—although we understand that sometimes new activities are added or current ones are removed, so just do your best to respond!).

Write in the exact times in the correct status box for each day:

<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>Usually Available</i>	<i>Sometimes Available</i>	<i>Never Available</i>
<i>TUESDAY</i>			
<i>WEDNESDAY</i>			
<i>THURSDAY</i>			
<i>FRIDAY</i>			
<i>SATURDAY</i>			
<i>SUNDAY</i>			

DI meetings/practices occur at various times, usually at the home of the team manager, due to the space needed to create the team's solution. Especially for middle school and high school students, it is sometimes necessary to adjust meeting times/duration as the school year progresses. DI team members (and parents!) are usually busy people! Sometimes teams must be formed partially based on when students are available, but sometimes that availability changes and the team adjusts its times. Team managers will use email/group texts, etc. to communicate with team members and parents about team meetings... some are impromptu and some end up lasting longer than scheduled. FLEXIBILITY is a key component to being a successful DI team member (and parent!). Sometimes 4-hour practices every other Saturday afternoon work better than two 2-hour practices after school... especially once the team starts building things and getting things out/putting them away takes a chunk of time.

**DI team members MUST be available to attend the following:**

- 1— Team Member/Parent Orientation on Thursday, September 5, 6:30-7:30 PM in the BJHS Library**
- 2— Instant Challenge workshop - TBA in November**
- 3—DMS and BJHS Dress Rehearsal and Family Potluck— date TBA (week of Feb. 3)**
- 4—DI Regional Tournament - February 8 - location TBA (probably in the Huntsville area)—all day**
- 5—DI State Tournament—March 14 (at BJHS) - all day—for top 3 at regionals from each category**
- 6—DI Global Finals - May 20-24, 2019 - for 1st place state winners**

*\*Out of respect for your child's fellow teammates and team manager, DO NOT agree to allow your child to be on a DI team if you are not willing to:*

- (1) block off the above dates for him or her to be at these events (even though advancement isn't guaranteed, it's likely!), AND*
- (2) support your child's team's decision to progress to the next level of competition even if there is minimal/no competition for them at the regional and/or state level or if they are a runner-up at affiliate (state) and are given the opportunity to go to Global Finals due to forfeiture by the first place team! I do not mean to sound harsh with this stipulation, but because of the "only 7 brains per solution" rule, it is just not fair to the remaining team members when someone drops out between competitions and because a team has to be "all in" to keep going as far as possible!*

**Initial Here to indicate your awareness of and commitment to the above dates and financial obligations:**

**Student Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Initials \_\_\_\_\_**

**PARENTS: please review the list of responsibilities on both sides of this handout CAREFULLY before agreeing to allow your child to turn in his or her DI application!!**

***DI Team Members MUST:***

- *Attend the DI kickoff meeting on Thursday, September 5 in the BJHS library. Individual team practices will begin within the following week after this orientation/kickoff meeting.*
- *Commit to weekly after-school or evening practices (exact day and time will be determined by the team managers/team members after teams are formed). This schedule will last from September-December and then increase to bi-weekly (or sometimes more!) practices starting in January.*
- *Actively participate during practice sessions is crucial! Sickness, a death in the family, or a required school activity are certainly reasons for missing practice, but because you will decide on practice times TOGETHER, there should not be too many conflicts, and students should organize their homework, etc. in order to honor this commitment.*
- *Sometimes work on DI activities at home. Although most DI team work is completed during practice, occasionally team managers may ask students to work on ideas, materials, etc. at home to bring in during the next practice.*
- *Adhere to the Madison City Schools student code of conduct at ALL times, including at competitions. DI sponsors/team managers must report discipline problems to BJHS or DMS administrative staff. Habitual disrespect of facilities, team manager or fellow team members will constitute removal from the team.*

**Notes about team formation:**

- Teams that “return” with 3 or more intact team members and a team manager will have first “dibs” at the challenge that they competed in the year before. If more than one team returns intact, then the challenge choice will be made by seniority among those intact teams.
- Teams will be kept together if possible; I will not put 7th and 8th graders on BJHS teams unless absolutely necessary!
- I do not allow DMS teams to compete against other DMS teams or BJHS teams to compete against other BJHS teams!

**If you and your child agree to the conditions on pages 3-4, please complete all blanks on the first page and return to me NO LATER than 8:00 AM on FRIDAY, AUGUST 30!**

**BJHS students - return to Mrs. Dauma in Room C113**

**DMS students - return to Mrs. Hughes in Room 114**

*FYI from Mrs. Dauma: If there are too many applicants compared to the number of parents willing to serve as team managers, then I will have to have tryouts to fill the available slots—hopefully this will not happen, though!*

# ***DI Parents Must:***

- ***Attend the DI Orientation meeting on Thursday, September 5 from 6:30-7:30 in the BJHS Library.***
- ***Pay the DI activity fee of \$40 by September 27.*** Payment for all students should be in the form of a check payable to BJHS (even for DMS teams - we share one account). This fee covers (1) national DI membership and entry fees for regional and state competition, (2) general supplies to support the program such as set, props, and costume materials, etc. Also, each parent should be prepared to chip in for last-minute purchases that your child's team manager may need— Walmart runs should be a shared burden!
- ***Help with costs for challenge supplies not covered by the activity fees will be split equally among parents of team members as the year progresses. The decision about how to handle this is handled by each team manager. Cost limit is \$125-175 for each challenge, although some teams come in well under the limit. Scrounged/ recycled/donated materials are always encouraged, although the cost of those have to be counted. Fees help to provide about \$50 in supply money for each team, which can be used at Walmart and/or Lowe's (using a school purchase order and procured BEFORE the purchase is made - no reimbursements are allowed after the fact!).***
- ***Provide snacks for the team practice sessions, on a rotating basis, or give the TM a donation of money or food items to use during practice sessions. Sign-up for this will occur at the kick-off meeting or with your child's team manager at the first team meeting, or via regular communication with the TM.***
- ***Provide a minimum of 3 hours of assistance to the team prior to tournament day!! Managing the activity of a DI team is a mammoth job, and assistance is crucial for the success (and sanity!) of the team and its manager! This is usually in the form of being at practice as an extra pair of hands, buying supplies, scrounging in dumpsters for supplies, etc. (I'm only half kidding about that!). If a parent's work schedule does not allow for ANY time to directly assist with practice sessions, that parent may provide his/her assistance in other ways and should work directly with the team manager to determine this.***
- ***Serve as or help recruit appraisers and volunteers for regional and state tournaments.*** Each team must also provide ONE trained appraiser for the tournaments (plus one for our membership; ie, if BJHS has four teams, we must provide five appraisers), so assistance in finding community members to help is crucial!! Parents who work as appraisers will not likely be able to watch their child's presentation.

*Each family must provide at least ONE hour of general volunteer service for the regional tournament since we host and run concessions. There are shifts available on Friday evening and all day Saturday. At the state tournament, we may also run concessions and other volunteer jobs will be available, if that date is better for your family. Help is appreciated at state, but since we aren't the host, we can spread out the work among more teams from across the state. :)*
- ***Transport your child to/from DI meetings/practices/events.*** Your child's team manager is taking on a HUGE responsibility and commitment of time, energy, and resources to be a team manager. Please do not ask him or her to also provide transportation, except in an emergency or situation that is agreed upon ahead of time.
- ***Be prepared to pay for the trip to Global Finals for their child or assist with raising funds for the trip.*** This year the cost ranged from \$800-\$1100 (depending on how many people were on the team); however, with fundraising efforts, no student paid more than \$700 or so - some students had their way completely covered due to efforts in fundraising. ALL team members must be willing to make this commitment at the outset, or else it's not fair to their teammates.
- ***FUNDRAISING*** - We usually have at least ONE fundraiser prior to the start of the tournament season so that we have a "head start" on Globals fundraising before March 16. Participation will be optional and if you do participate and your child doesn't end up going to Globals, then you will have several options to choose from as far as how that money will be disseminated.

***If your child's team DOES win at the state tournament, then you will immediately be a part of a Globals planning meeting (usually Mon or Tues after state tournament) when fundraising details will be finalized. All fundraisers are optional and almost all funds will go directly to the team member's direct cost of attending Globals.***