Academic Activities Summary

Academic Decathlon
Academic Decathlon (AD) has been a strong BSSD activity in the past. It is an event that challenges high school students in 10 academic areas. We will have a BSSD competition and select a combined team to go to the state tournament. The District Activities office pays for the materials*, stipend and travel to the two meets. While this event requires a real commitment by students and staff to study and prepare, it can be spread over several months, as the competitions are not until after the New Year. It is also an event that competes in 3 levels measured by a student's GPA.

Academic Pentathlon
This activity is the same as AD but for middle school students. It has only 5 events. There is no BSSD competition planned at this point pending a determination of interest.

Science Fair
The BSSD Science Fair is established and has been attended by up to half of our schools. It is an activity that can be largely accomplished within the framework of the regular science classroom instruction. A stipend is often paid for the lead science teacher who organizes and runs the local Science Fair. Winners of that go on the district Fair and potentially the State Fair.

Spelling Bee
This is another activity that is well attended by BSSD sites. Each attending site must verify that they had a local Bee. Materials are available now and study can begin within the framework of vocabulary instruction. Teams often do extra study of the specific "Spell-It" words after school and there is usually a stipend for the lead teacher who will have responsibility to setup and run the local Bee.

Battle of the Books
Battle of the Books has a very successful heritage in BSSD. We have had several State champions and consistently place high. All schools should participate in this. Some of the reading can be a part of the reading curriculum, but there is also significant work required for successful teams. After school study and practice is important. The District pays a small stipend to Battle of the Books coaches at the different levels if there is "extracurricular" practices outside the regular school day. All competition runs through the District Media Center and is via video-conferencing.

Geography Bee
This is an activity that specific schools have taken part in previously, but not recently. It is for grades 4-8 and focuses strictly on geography. There is a site-qualifying test with a state competition. Some after-school study would be needed.

Math Counts
This is another activity for middle school ages. Again, much could be done in the regular math instructional time with a need for additional study and problem-solving work with the site team after school. This is another activity with some history in specific BSSD sites.

Drama, Debate & Forensics (DDF)
DDF is an ASAA-sanctioned activity. It is one that addresses the very crucial skill areas of speech, debate and acting. It is another activity that can get some work done during regular instruction with additional study outside of the school day.

National Oceanic Science Bowl (NOSB)
We have also had very successful NOSB teams at the state level. This is a competition based on Ocean Sciences, which are very relevant to all of our schools. This would be an after school activity and likely would not have a District competition unless there was significant interest.

Business Professionals of America (BPA)
BPA has a strong history in the BSSD. We have had very impressive results in the past with no participation in many years now with the elimination of many of our business classes. This is for high school students interested in business careers. This would likely be an after school activity.

E-sports
This is something new for FY19 and participation is still in "pilot" stage waiting firm school board approval and construct of the state-wide program.

NOTE: All of these activities may have a stipend available for coaching/advising. Please remember that stipends are <u>only</u> available for activities that take part outside of the regular school day.