

October 2nd, 2014

Dear Parents,

Thank you for supporting your child's desire and interest in Destination Imagination at Springbank Middle School. Destination Imagination is a 21st century learning program that encourages students to have fun, take risks, focus, and frame challenges while incorporating the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), the arts and service learning. Through their involvement in DI, students will be prepared for success in school, their career, and life by learning time management, goal setting, organization, critical thinking, self motivation, communication and commitment. Teams will showcase their solutions at a local tournament in early March. Successful teams will be invited to attend Destination Imagination Global Finals in Knoxville, Tennessee in May 2015.

Each year, seven new challenges are introduced. This year, we have approximately 30 students involved in DI. The teams at Springbank Middle will be competing in the Technical, Service Learning, Improvisation and Fine Arts challenges. All teams compete in the Instant Challenges. Please make yourself familiar with the central challenge that your child has chosen. Detailed information about each of the challenges is available on the Destination Imagination website. <http://www.destinationimagination.org/challenge-program/2014-15-challenge-previews>

Team meetings and practices will be held from October to early March. Team Managers will confirm practice times and dates, but we are currently meeting on Wednesdays during the lunch hour and this will likely extend into the afternoon classes. It is the responsibility of each student to let their teachers know if they will be missing classes and to catch up on their own time.

Consistent attendance is important for all team members. Dropping out and non-attendance at team meetings is detrimental to the entire team. This is a commitment on the part of students and their parents, who make sure students attend meetings regularly. I have attached 2 contracts for both parents and students to read and sign regarding your commitment to the Destination Imagination program. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

The number of teams from Springbank Middle will completely depend on the number of adult Team Managers who volunteer. Destination Imagination is dependent on parent volunteers to offer wonderful opportunities for highly creative children. All families are asked to help out with the local tournament or in a supporting role with their child's team as a team manager, organizing the instant challenges or providing snacks. Without your support, we could not run this incredible program at Springbank Middle.

There will be an information session on **Wednesday, October 22nd at 6:30 PM** in the SMS Learning Commons. It is important that you attend this meeting. We will be discussing the goals and philosophy of the program. As well, all parents need to understand the "Interference" rules. Your attendance is **mandatory** if you would like your child to participate in the program.

Please RSVP by **Wednesday, October 8th** to my email suewilliams@rockyview.ab.ca to confirm your attendance. I look forward to seeing you all on October 22nd at 6:30 PM.

Thank you,

Sue Williams
Destination Imagination Coordinator
Springbank Middle School