

Destination Imagination 2007-8 Parent Guide

Team Managers: Paul & Maureen Trunfio
Meeting Location: 2 Adams Drive
Meeting Times: Tuesdays from 4:00PM - 5:00PM
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Parents are a very important part of our team's support network. Team members need a lot of different kinds of support and this will be discussed below. We hope you find your experience as a parent of a Destination Imagination team member a rewarding one!

We will talk about all of these items below at our parent's meetings, but I wanted to put them in writing for you to have as a reference. These are taken from the DI packets and websites, but took out information that was irrelevant or confusing and added information that I felt was important.

How can parents become involved?

Find out as much as you can about the Destination Imagination program. There are two websites you may want to check out: www.idodi.org and www.madikids.org. The former is the main DI webpage and the latter is the Massachusetts page.

Avoid talking about possible ideas or solutions regarding your child's Team Challenge. Remember to answer all questions with questions and NEVER offer ideas or solutions to the Team Challenge. Find out about Interference and the resulting potential point deductions to your child's team.

Do fun and creative activities and games with your child to improve their short term problem solving skills. Many of the games we will play as a team, you can play as a family at home. Ask your child what they did after each session and see if you can incorporate these skills.

Respect your Team Manager's time investment with the team. Please be prompt about drop off and pick up. Our training discouraged us from having a rotating parent schedule. It was felt that it would be distracting to young children. Drop off is at 4pm. Pickup is at 5pm. We will be finished by then. If you want to come in and stay for a few minutes and get filled in on what happened by the kids, feel free. We possibly will schedule from 5-5:15pm for the kids to show off what they did. Please do not arrive early for pickup or late for drop off as this may interfere with the activities we are doing.

As the tournament date gets closer, we will have rehearsal performances and possibly a Pompo performance. Please get involved in these activities.

For the last session, Friday 3/28, we will have a pizza party. All parents will be asked to help out with this. There will also be a public (for you) rehearsal for the next day's tournament. Because our sessions will only be an hour, we will not be having a snack. However, as the season progresses, we may find that the kids may benefit from some extra time together. In this case, we may do a snack, and will have a rotating schedule for supplying the snacks for each session.

There may be assignments that kids are asked to do independently during the week to prepare for the next session. Our team may decide to collect certain recyclables for our use or draw something or whatever. Please help your kids by looking over their folder after each session to see if there is an assignment for the following week. Make sure you have your child lead the way. Have them do the work. This is not like doing homework where you help guide them to the answer. It's important that all work is completely their own or their team's. If they cannot do it on their own, that's okay. This will teach them that it may sometimes take the whole team to solve a problem. Sometimes we may need to purchase things for our solution. We keep these items low cost. If you purchase with your child, make sure you keep your receipt as you will be reimbursed.

What is the role of the Team Manager?

The team manager is the primary facilitator, resource person, and/or advisor for your team. However, a Team Manager may not offer ideas in any form to the team. The Team Manager may:

- Read and explain the Team Challenge and sample Instant Challenges to the team.
- Help conduct idea-generating sessions to help keep the team on task.
- Present practice Instant Challenges to the team.
- Present research options at the team's request.

The Team Manager may NOT direct or lead the team towards a certain kind of information or solution.

How can parents make this a positive experience for their child?

Don't allow your child to miss meetings. The team must work together to create the Team Challenge solution. The team depends on participation from each team member. Inform your Team Manager about unavoidable conflicts as soon as you know about them.

Understand that Destination Imagination has been designed to allow your child to participate in every aspect of the solution and Presentation. However, in every team situation there will be differences of opinion. Have your child work out disagreements

with the team and/or Team Manager on his/her own. This is a huge part of learning the creative problem solving process!

Demonstrate good sportsmanship to your child and team. Do not discuss your team's solution with other parents unless you are the Team Manager.

Watch your child's creativity blossom after every DI meeting and especially at the Tournament! Let your child know how proud you are that he or she has made the commitment and is working with a team toward a common goal.

The Destination Imagination Program Overview

Destination ImagiNation, Inc. is a non-profit organization offering a global, youth-centered, creative problem-solving program. Destination ImagiNation emphasizes creativity, problem solving and teamwork. DI Challenges have open-ended answers, empowering participants to create solutions that are imaginative, original, divergent and ingenious! Students work together in teams to tackle these challenges under the direction of a Team Manager.

Educational Goals

Destination Imagination is a community-based, school-friendly program that build participants' creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork in enjoyable and meaningful ways. The goals of DI are for participants to:

- Foster creative and critical thinking
- Learn and apply Creative Problem Solving method and tools
- Develop teamwork, collaboration, and leadership skills
- Nurture research and inquiry skills, involving both creative exploration and attention to detail
- Enhance and apply written and verbal communication and presentation skills (both impromptu and sustained)
- Promote the recognition, use, and development of many and varied strengths and talents
- Encourage competence in, enthusiasm for, and commitment to real-life problem solving

Rising Stars Team Challenge: TwisDId History!

Focus:

Imagining Possibilities, Storytelling, Research, History, Geometric Shapes, Performing in front of an audience, Working with others



The Destination: What is our Challenge?

Your Challenge is to choose something that happened in the past and change it. You will make up a Play that will tell the story of how your team changed history. Your story will have a beginning, a middle, and an end. You will have characters in your Play, and you will also make up a song. You will make a Magical Prop that is made up of different shapes. The Magical Prop will help you change history.

Side Trips

Imagine that you are on your way somewhere... You decide to take a side trip to a place that sounds interesting. Imagine that that side trip turns out to be the highlight of your travels. On any journey, a side trip is an extra adventure that adds spice to the overall experience. DI Side Trips work the same way: A team adds a little something to their solution that expresses who they are, shows off their specialties, and lets them strut their stuff – and their Side Trip(s) are the highlights of their creative problem solving travels!

Why Side Trips? The idea of Side Trips is based on the educational theory of multiple intelligences, which in part emphasizes the importance of allowing participants to find their own best ways to process and present what they have learned. Side Trips allow teams total freedom to develop elements of their own choosing. In the process, teams recognize and make the most of each individual's abilities, skills, and interests.

Instant Challenges

Imagine that you are handed an envelope and a small piece of clay... How might you use them to make a structure that is as tall as possible in a two-minute period? Now imagine that you not only have to make the structure, but figure out how it could be used and present it in an entertaining performance... Welcome to the world of Instant Challenge, where DI teams' creative problem solving abilities, creativity, and teamwork are put to the test solving a time-driven Challenge.

Why Instant Challenges? It sounds trite, but it's true: In this ever-changing world, the ability to think on your feet and solve problems in a hurry is becoming more and more important.

DI teams learn to solve "instant" challenges in a very short time frame – usually 5 minutes! This ability is tested at Tournaments when they are given an Instant Challenge and an opportunity to showcase their problem-solving prowess:

- Their ability to assess and use available materials in creative way
- Their knack for improvisation
- Their flair for performance
- Their time-management strategies
- Their teamwork

You can find sample Instant Challenges on DI's website.

What will our sessions be like?

Every session will have a team building activities, an instant challenge, and work on their main challenge. There are other activities such as deciding on a team name, making a team sign (to be displayed during the Tournament), and more.

Digital Pictures and Our Own DI Website

I script all my own websites, but I will probably work with the kids to build our own using Apple's iWeb, which is an easy to use publishing solution. I have expensive digital cameras, and while I will occasionally take pictures using them, I will loan the team an old digital camera for their exclusive use. Building the website will help them keep track of what they did and what they are working on. It will be private. Only members of the team and their parents can log in and check it out. It's important that they not share the web address with anyone else because our team's solution is our own and must be kept confidential.

Expectations

There are certain expectations of team members, parents, and Team Managers. I spell them out below and many of them are listed on the Contract.

For Students:

- It's important that kids behave as they would in school: behavior that is inappropriate at school is inappropriate at DI meetings

- In DI, all ideas are worth hearing. Rude remarks about the ideas of others will not be tolerated.
- Being on a team means being responsible for your share of the tasks. If you volunteer to do something, follow through.
- It's fun to work on a DI Team Challenge solution, but your schoolwork needs to come first.

For Parents:

- Please be considerate and be prompt for drop off and pick up.
- Do not schedule appointments for your child during our regular meeting time (Tuesdays at 4pm). At DI meetings, every member is needed.
- Expenses incurred by the team in creating its solution must be shared by team members. We have a specific allotment from Stow's program. I am not sure what it is at this time, but do save receipts and you will be reimbursed. The idea behind a DI solution is to keep the costs as low as possible. Kids should learn the value of items and the meaning of a budget.
- If you have concerns about your child, the team's progress, or the Team Manager, communicate with the appropriate party. Don't wait for a small problem to become a big one. Tell the Team Manager (Paul Trunfio 897-5222) or Stow DI Coordinator (Sally Norton, 897-3353).
- You must have respect for the integrity of the team's solution. "No Interference" means just that.

For me, as Team Manager, there are also certain expectations. They include, informing you of progress and problems, making sure every team member contributes, no interference, and no introducing of competitive goals.

Summary

Our Destination Imagination Team will be a journey for our members. Watch your children grow and become better problem solvers and work together as a team. Remember, even though you are not the Team Manager, you will be part of the team. From 5-5:15pm there will be time for you to come in and see what has been done during the day's session. There will also be opportunities for practice performances of our team's solution, assistance at the March DI tournament, help with purchases needed for the team's solution, checking out our DI website, and more. I will try to include you as much as possible.