

From the desk of Superintendent Michelle Jensen...

We're going to state! Four words Deerfield High School loves to hear. Once again we have much to celebrate. For the first time in 21 years, the Deerfield High School Academic Decathlon team is going to compete in the state competition to take place in Madison on March 12-13. This year's theme is China which includes Chinese composers, Chinese artists, Chinese literature, Chinese music, Chinese history. Test your Chinese knowledge: The Chinese word for 'meat' may also be translated as: a) pure b) small happiness c) pork d) beef e) chicken. Not sure, ask a high school Academic Decathlon team member.

A group of 23 high school students began practicing for this year's competition last spring. Through a process of qualifying tests, the final team consisting of nine students including three A average students, three B average students and three C average students headed to the regional meet for what turned out to be a very good day. Their dreams were realized when they placed third overall, not to mention that Deerfield was the only Division 4 school competing with 11 other schools.

A neighboring Division 1 school has asked Deerfield to practice with them to prepare for state. They practice, on average, 16 hours a week. This will prove difficult as our Academic Decathlon students are also wrestlers, basketball players, cheerleaders, pep band members, show choir and forensics members to mention a few. Once again the advantages of a small school mean that our students get opportunities to be a part of many activities throughout the year, and they wouldn't want it any other way.

Deerfield can boast being a community that supports the endeavors of its young people. Whether it's an athlete or an artist, a singer or a scientist, a mathematician or a machinist, our schools and our community have opened many doors for students to prepare them for their future. As Deerfield continues to grow, it is important to maintain and fund these programs for our children. It is believed that strong successful schools build stronger communities.

Best wishes to Mr. Gerry Wichlacz and the Academic Decathlon team. You have made all of us very proud. By the way, the answer is pork. Pigs play an essential role in Chinese agriculture, hence, their dual meaning.

