



What is Destination Imagination?

Destination Imagination (DI) is a volunteer-led, non-profit organization whose purpose is to inspire and equip students to become the next generation of innovators and leaders. It is a project-based learning program designed to complement K-12 education. Annually, DI offers six new academic Challenges in the fields of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), fine arts and service learning (and one in early learning). In solving a challenge, students learn the creative process from imagination to innovation and the skills needed to thrive in school, their careers and beyond.

What is the goal of DI Challenges?

The goal of each DI Challenge is teach students 21st century skills that will help them thrive in an ever-changing world. Students learn the creative process and how to take a novel idea and see it all the way through to fruition. They also gain invaluable life and career skills, including creative and critical thinking, collaboration, project management, perseverance, risk taking, budgeting and conflict management.

What are the age/grade requirements to participate in DI?

Students from kindergarten through university level can participate in DI. Applicable to Ben Franklin Academy (BFA) for the 2019-20 school year is as follows:

- *Elementary Level:* Kindergarten – 5th grade (No student born before June 15, 2008)
- *Middle Level:* 6th – 8th grades (No student born before June 15, 2005)
- *Rising Stars!®:* (non-competitive challenge) Preschool – 2nd grade (Created for early learners, teams work together on performances complete with characters, props and scripts. Unlike the other levels of DI, it is non-competitive, but offers a tournament showcase option.)

How many students make up a DI team?

DI teams may consist of two (minimum) to seven (maximum) members and must have an adult Team Manager (often a teacher or parent).

What is a DI Team Manager?

The role of the Team Manager is to facilitate DI team meetings, keep team members on task and provide resources. The Team Manager does not provide solutions or tell team members how to solve the Challenge. It is imperative that the Team Manager allows the team members to solve the Challenge in their own way. All solutions – including props, costumes, set designs, structures, scripts, etc. – must be team created. No adult interference is allowed.

How long does a team work on a Challenge?

Teams often start meeting in October or November and spend approximately two to four months planning, designing and building a solution to their Central Challenge. Teams also practice Instant Challenges during their meetings. Teams usually meet at least once a week to work on their solution.

What is a DI tournament?

All BFA DI teams compete at the South Metro Regional DI Tournament, which is where teams showcase their creative Central Challenge solutions. Team solutions are assessed by a panel of trained Appraisers (judges), ranging from educators to artists to engineers. Solutions are scored on a variety of elements, including originality, workmanship, presentation, teamwork and meeting requirements for the Challenge. In addition, teams are given an Instant Challenge and the materials with which to solve it at the tournament. It is a chance for teams to demonstrate their creative problem solving skills, teamwork and ability to “think on their feet.” (Instant Challenges are kept confidential during the tournament and throughout the end of DI Global Finals.) Teams with the highest scores advance to the Colorado Affiliate Tournament (with the exception of Rising Stars!® teams). The top-tiered teams from the Affiliate Tournaments advance to Global Finals.

Where can I find DI’s 2019-20 Central Challenges?

For a preview of this year’s DI Challenges, please click here: <https://www.destinationimagination.org/blog/sneak-peek-2019-20-challenge-overviews/>.

For more information about DI at BFA, please visit <https://www.dicolorado.com/about-di/> or contact Jason Sunahara, BFA DI Coordinator, at jsunahara@gmail.com.