

# Middle Grades Knowledge Bowl

An Academic Competition for Grades 6-8

November 2026  
through  
February 2027

**Middle Grades Knowledge Bowl (MGKB)** is an academic team competition that builds students' critical thinking, sharpens their recall, and strengthens collaboration through fast-paced, quiz-style meets.

## Benefits to Students

- Building confidence and communication skills through collaborative problem-solving
- Connecting with other players from middle schools across the Twin Cities metro area
- Practicing teamwork and critical thinking in a fast-paced academic competition that aligns with several Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards (learn more at [sparkpath.org/mnstandards](http://sparkpath.org/mnstandards))

## Typical Meet Schedule

4:00 - 4:35 pm - Written Round and Coach Question Review

4:40 - 7:10 pm - 3 Oral Rounds

7:15 - 7:30 pm - Awards

During a meet, teams of six students compete in a written round, where they complete a multiple-choice test. Then, teams of five students compete in oral rounds where they answer questions read by a coach or volunteer.

Teams compete in three to five meets throughout the season. The three regular season meets are held December through February, with an optional Kick-Off meet (November), and an optional State Meet (February).

## Program Feedback

**91%** of players strengthened their teamwork skills by participating in MGKB.

- "It's better to have fun than to win, but both is *best* best." -8th grade KB player
- "Trust your answers, you could be right!" -6th grade KB player



Students show off their hardware at the State Meet.



Teams collaborate during the written round portion of the competition.

|                | BrightWorks Member<br>Per Team | Non-Member<br>Per Team |
|----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Kick-Off       | \$35                           | \$55                   |
| Regular Season | \$155                          | \$310                  |
| State          | \$35                           | \$55                   |



**Learn More:** Betsy Narr | 612-638-1550 | [betsy.narr@brightworksmn.org](mailto:betsy.narr@brightworksmn.org)

[www.sparkpath.org/mgkb](http://www.sparkpath.org/mgkb)