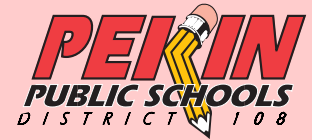


# Success Story



**FEBRUARY 25, 2008**

On March 1st, Pekin District 108 will host the Central/South Regional Destination ImagiNation Showcase at Broadmoor Junior High School from 10:00-3:00 p.m. Teams from Central Illinois—Pekin, Tri-Valley, North Pekin-Marquette Heights, Peoria #150 and many others, will participate in a world-wide creative problem-solving program that is sponsored in every state of the USA and 40 countries around the world.

Destination ImagiNation teams are asked to creatively solve two different kinds of Challenges, each with its own purpose and educational focus. The two Challenges are the *Team Challenge* and the *Instant Challenge*. Through support by their adult Team Manager, students work together over several months to develop and present their central academic-based challenge that can include life skills in technical design and construction, science, theater arts, playwriting, architectural, structural engineering, and improvisational acting.

This is the 20th year that Pekin District 108 has been involved in Destination ImagiNation. DI was brought to the district as part of the “gifted” problem-solving curriculum. The program quickly became available as an extra-curricular learning opportunity for District 108 students in 4th through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The district has had great success in DI. Pekin District 108 has had 18 DI student teams qualify for State competition, and 10 student teams qualify and in some cases win DI Global championships. This year, there are 215 DI teams state-wide. The Central/South Regional Showcase will host 25 teams, with 9 teams coming from Pekin School District 108.

Jan Darnell, has served as the DI District Coordinator for this valuable district asset since its early beginnings. Jan also serves on the DI State Affiliate Board, which governs the three DI regions of the state. She has been called the “Mother of DI” in District 108. Jan is joined on the District 108 DI staff leadership team by Ryan Clark and Jenny Heath, both teachers at Washington Intermediate School, and Amber Morris, a teacher from Edison Junior High. The district appreciates and applauds their effort and commitment to fostering extended minds-on, hands-on learning opportunities outside the regular school day for District 108 students.

This is the 24th year for DI Creative Problem Solving in Illinois. Destination ImagiNation is a world-wide creative problem solving program that supports students in 4th through 12th grade to use art, technology, teamwork, reading, writing, and their personal talents to tackle DI challenges for today and in turn be able to fine tune these life skills for their very bright future!

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**Christopher J. Spanos, Board President**

## **Thank you, Jan Darnell!**