



CONTESTANT INFORMATION PACKET

All registration must be completed on line. Registration deadline: Friday, February 5th, 2010.

For more information, please visit our website: www.valleycatholic.org

Seventh and eighth grade contestant participates in three rounds: an elocution round, an extemporaneous reading round and an impromptu speaking round. Fifth and sixth grade contestants participate in two rounds: an elocution round and an extemporaneous reading round and then are assigned an observation room for the impromptu speaking round.

ROUND ONE - ELOCUTION:

Student scores will be penalized for speeches that exceed or fall short of the 3-4 minute time limit.

The contestant will be expected to deliver from memory, without the assistance of notes, an elocution piece 3 to 4 minutes in length. This may be an original composition, prose, or poetry taken from a book or printed copy. Imitating recordings or tapes is not permitted.

When contestants are finished, they are to remain in the room until the entire round is completed. (This rule of courtesy holds true for all rounds and for all those attending the tournament.)

There are two divisions in this round for seventh grade: serious and humorous. There are three divisions in this round for eighth grade: serious, humorous, and patriotic.

Parents, coaches and visitors may observe the students present their speeches. Everyone must stay in the assigned room until all contestants in all rooms are finished with each round. Thank you!

ROUND TWO: EXTEMPORANEOUS READING

This round is set up to determine how well the contestant can read with only 10 minutes of preparation. Students may have help during those ten minutes from parents, teachers or friends. All contestants will receive the same selection, but they will have no opportunity to hear the preceding contestants read.

After the ten-minute practice period is over, students will return the selection to the Valley Catholic High School student assistant. The Valley Catholic High School student assistant will instruct contestants to wait outside the door until they are called to read, at which time the selection will be given back.

When contestants are finished, they are to remain in the room until the entire round is completed. (This rule of courtesy holds true for all rounds and for all those attending the tournament.)

Parents, coaches and visitors may help the contestants practice the reading during the initial 10-minute practice period. Once the practice readings are collected, all parents, coaches, and visitors must enter the classroom WITHOUT their students and wait to hear their reading or go to the coaches' room, cafeteria, or lobby and wait for the end of round two. No coach, parent or visitor is allowed in the hallways during round two.

ROUND THREE: IMPROMPTU SPEAKING – SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE ONLY (FIFTH AND SIXTH OBSERVE THIS ROUND)

Student scores will be penalized for speeches that exceed or fall short of the 2-3 minute the time limit.

In the third round, contestants will draw a slip of paper with four possible topics for an impromptu speech. Students will be expected to prepare and deliver a two-to-three minute speech on one of the topics drawn. A five-minute period of complete silence will be observed while contestants plan and write their speeches (note cards and pencils provided). The speech should contain a brief introduction, two to three main points of development, and a logical conclusion. Only notes prepared during the time provided may be used during delivery.

Note cards will be collected at the end of the five-minute period and held by the Valley Catholic High School student assistant until it is the student's turn to present the impromptu speech. All students will be expected to read the topic (word) they have chosen to the judge and then proceed to present the speech.

When contestants are finished, they are to remain in the room until the entire round is completed. (This rule of courtesy holds true for all rounds and for all those attending the tournament.)

Parents, coaches and visitors will need to wait until all contestants are finished writing their impromptu speeches before they are allowed to enter the classrooms/contestant rooms. This will be five minutes after round three begins. When the judge's assistant has finished collecting each contestant's note card, the classroom doors will be opened, allowing observers to enter.

THE FINAL ROUND – ELOCUTION TIE-BREAKER

In the event of a tie for the scholarship prizes, students will present their elocution speeches before a panel of judges. Scores will be calculated and prizes will be determined after this round. This round is for all contestants who tie for prizes.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Trophies will be presented and scholarships will be announced at an awards ceremony. The first place/scholarship winners in each category in both the seventh and eighth grade will deliver their elocution pieces to the audience.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Please arrive at Valley Catholic School between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. Report to the gym and look for your school. The competition finishes at 2:30 p.m. with the awards ceremony occurring after the tie-breaker, approx. 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION OF TOURNAMENT

The tournament will be held at Valley Catholic School, located at 4275 S.W. 148th Avenue, Beaverton (near the corner of TV Highway and Murray Blvd.). Registration for all contestants will be held in the school cafeteria. Following registration, a general assembly will be held in the school gymnasium before the rounds begin.

ENTRANCE FEE*:

To cover the expenses of conducting this tournament, a fee of \$15.00 is charged for each contestant. The fee must be paid when the registration forms are returned: no later than Friday, February 5th, 2010. Refunds are not allowed, but transfers will be accepted. For example: If Allison Gray registers and is not able to attend, John Black may re-register in her place on the tournament day. However, he must enter the same category (serious or humorous) and must be in the same grade as the student he is replacing.

**Please note: The speech coach from your child's school is responsible for registering all of his/her students on-line and sending one check for all participating students. Please check with him/her for specific details.*

AWARDS

1. Tuition scholarships and trophies for eighth grade students with the highest combined scores in the first three rounds are given. Trophies for second place, third place, and honorable mention for the eighth grade contestants are given in the serious, humorous, and patriotic divisions. Scholarships will be paid directly to the Catholic high school of the winner's choice.
2. First place, second place, third place, and honorable mention trophies are given in both the serious and humorous divisions for junior division contestants (fifth and sixth grade contestants) and the seventh grade contestants.

WHO MAY ATTEND?

We welcome any interested teachers, parents, or fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth grade students. Spectators may not sit near or interfere with the judges. Flash photography, videotaping, and cell phones are not allowed during the competition (Rounds One - Four), but it is acceptable to take photos or video during the awards presentation. A person may neither enter nor leave the room during the session. Young children are not invited.

WHO ARE THE JUDGES?

Generally, the judges are members of the community at large, members of Toastmasters and International Training in Communication Clubs of the Beaverton area. They serve in the capacity of objective, competent judges for all the rounds. No judge is related to any participating student.

HOW DO I DRESS?

Although each school has slightly different requirements for their contestants, students should dress in nice clothing. Presentation is important, and this includes personal appearance. Students are to dress and groom themselves in a manner that is modest, clean and appropriate to a Catholic school academic environment. While parents and students have the primary responsibility for personal appearance, the school administration is responsible for interpreting dress code regulations. Valley Catholic School Administration reserves the right to disqualify any student who is dressed inappropriately.

The following guidelines are used to determine appropriate dress:

- Clothing should be neat, tasteful and hemmed. Skirts, dresses, or slits can be no more than two inches above the knee. Dresses must have sleeves and modest necklines.
- All shirts and blouses must have sleeves and a modest neckline. No sheer, midriff, tight, or clingy tops. No stomach or back skin can show when both arms are raised above shoulder height. Sleeves should extend at least three inches down the arm beyond the edge of the shoulder.
- Clothing may not be excessively baggy, and pants must be fitted at the waist.
- Jeans are not recommended.

SNACKS AND LUNCH

You will eat lunch in the cafeteria. Please pre-order your lunch, bring money to purchase food at the tournament, or remember to bring your own sack lunch.

Coffee and tea will be available as a courtesy to all guests. Specialty drinks (espresso, bottled water, Italian sodas, etc.) and various snacks (bagels, muffins, candy bars, etc.) will be available for purchase in the lobby.

Pizza, dessert, and beverages will be available for sale in the school cafeteria. A full lunch can be purchased for \$5.00. It is highly recommended that you pre-order your lunch with your initial registration form.

Any student/school that pre-orders their lunch will have their lunch delivered directly to a semi-private location instead of needing to visit the cafeteria.

Parents, teachers and other guests may also pre-order lunches. Refunds are not allowed, but transfers within the same school will be accepted.

PARENTS – PLEASE COME TO HELP YOUR CHILD!

Please be sure to invite your parents to attend the tournament with you. They are able to help you on Round Two and are a good source of support. Using the past four years as a guide, I would estimate that well over two-thirds of the parents do attend with their child. Please do not bring your other children unless they are fifth grade or older.

WHAT IF I ARRIVE LATE?

Whether you are a contestant, parent, or coach, if you arrive to VCS after 8:15 a.m., please go immediately to the main school office. There you will be provided with the room assignments, and a VCS staff member will escort you to the competition classroom. You will not be allowed to enter the competition classroom without an escort.