



45th Annual Speech Tournament

February 25, 2012

Parent, Coach, and Visitor Information Guide

Parents, coaches, and visitors are welcome to help/observe students as follows:

Round One: Elocution Speeches

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

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 Speeches

Seventh and Eighth Grade Contestants Only (Fifth and sixth grade observes this round)

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 10-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.

Please note – For All Three Rounds

Once a round begins, no one will be allowed to enter or leave the competition room until the dismissal announcement is made to change rooms*. **THIS INCLUDES THE EXTRA TIME AT THE END OF THE ROUND – REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT THE STUDENTS IN THE ROOM HAVE COMPLETED THEIR SPEECHES.**

We have 32 competition rooms with contestants, and we will not make the announcement to switch until ALL classrooms have completed the round. Once all the classrooms finish, an announcement will be made to end the round. Contestants and observers will be released from the competition rooms at this time. Please plan accordingly and bring something to read. Electronic devices are not allowed (cell phones, personal listening devices, electronic games, etc.) *In the case of an emergency, including the use of the restroom or uncontrolled coughing, observers will be released from the classroom but will not be allowed to return to the classroom until the appropriate time.

To help things run smoothly for everyone, please read the following:

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. Young children (children fourth grade or younger) are not invited.

Arrival and Check-in

Please arrive at Valley Catholic School between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. and report to the Valiant Gym (the new gym). Registration for coaches and contestants will occur in the Athletic Center lobby area. Once registered, enter the gym and look for your school. Parents may want to visit the snack tables, located in the front school lobby to purchase a lunch ticket (if it was not pre-purchased). There are a limited number of lunch tickets so please plan accordingly. The competition finishes at 3:00 p.m. with the awards ceremony occurring after the tie-breaker.

Snacks and Lunch

Coffee, other hot and cold drinks, and snacks will be available. Pre-ordered lunch tickets will be inside the coach's registration packet. Any school that has at least 10 pre-ordered lunches will have their lunch delivered directly to a semi-private location instead of needing to visit the cafeteria. We are sorry but we cannot accommodate private rooms for groups smaller than 8 people. All other schools will need to eat in the cafeteria or gym. A limited number of extra lunch tickets will be sold for \$5.00 at the snack tables on a first come basis.

What should contestants bring?

We recommend you bring something quiet to do while you are waiting. A person may neither enter nor leave the room during the session, regardless if their particular room has completed the round. Although we balance the number of registered contestants per room, we simply cannot control the students who do not show up to the competition. If two or more students are absent from a room, it is possible that the contestants may wait up to 40 minutes before the dismissal bell rings. Please plan accordingly and bring something to read. Electronic devices are not allowed (cell phones, personal listening devices, electronic games, etc.)

General Information:

- Videotaping and flash photography are not allowed as the rounds are in progress but it is acceptable to take photos or video during the awards presentation.
- Cell phones, pagers, or any other device that may cause a distraction to the participants must be turned off during the competition.
- Please do not sit directly behind or near the judge. Also, please know that the judges are instructed **NOT TO DISCUSS** any element of a child's speech with an observer, so please do not ask.
- No coaching is allowed once the round begins – even if it is between contestant speeches! Any person doing so may be asked to leave.

Dress Code Reminder

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 and sweatshirts are not recommended.