

E. E. Miller Civic Oration Contest

February 10, 2005

Dear Parents,

During February and March our school will participate in the School Speech Contest, an annual public speaking competition sponsored by the Modern Woodmen of America. The topic this year is "A Great Time in American History." Please take time to help your child explore this topic by discussing different events in American history and how they have impacted our lives. Read the information that I'm sending home to get more details about the content of the contest.

I am requiring that all students participate by writing a speech and presenting it to the class, but not everyone has to be considered for the school competition. Speeches will be scored on their content as well as their delivery and presentation. I will choose three class winners to participate in the schoolwide Speech to be held in March. To be considered for the class competition, a speech must last three to five minutes long. Students may write shorter speeches, but speeches less than 3 minutes will not be eligible for presentation at the school level.

This project provides a great learning opportunity, but your help is needed to make the experience successful. We will spend a few weeks brainstorming ideas, doing research, and completing the graphic organizers. Then we will write the rough drafts of the essays in class. Please check on your child's progress and make sure they are meeting the deadlines given on the calendar I'm sending with this letter. Have your child practice reading his or her speech before presenting it orally to the class.



Please sign below to show that you have read this letter and are aware of the School Speech Contest. Return the bottom portion of the letter as soon as possible, but keep the calendar and Topic Planner. Help your child complete the Topic Planner right away and sign it to show your approval. Thank you for your support with this activity!

Sincerely,

School Speech Contest Participation

All children must participate by writing an essay and presenting it orally to our class. This will count as a major Language Arts grade. In addition, some students will participate in the schoolwide contest. Would you like your child's speech to be considered for the schoolwide contest?

_____ Yes, my child will write a 3 to 5 minute speech to enter into the School Speech Contest.
(Three students will be selected after hearing the speeches in the classroom.)

_____ No, my child will present his or her speech in the classroom only.

Student Name

Parent Signature