

ACEL FINE ARTS AND ACADEMICS
HANDBOOK



2023-2024

ACEL Fine Arts Purpose

- I. Purpose for the Student Participants
 - A. Provide each student with an opportunity to demonstrate his skills in an enjoyable, competitive environment.
 - B. Challenge each student as he develops and disciplines his God-given talents and abilities.
 - C. Provide each student with a clear picture of his strengths and weaknesses.
 1. Judges should use set standards of excellence
 2. Qualified judges will express their subjective opinions.

- II. Purpose for the Arts and Academic Program
 - A. Assist, advise and aid ACEL schools in organizing and conducting interschool fine arts competitions.
 1. As many students as possible are encouraged to participate.
 2. All standards should be high yet obtainable.
 3. Judges must acknowledge the students who meet the standards of excellence.
 4. Judges must inform the participants on how they can improve.
 - B. Equalize and stimulate wholesome competition among schools of similar size.
 1. Promote a spirit of good sportsmanship and fair play in all contests.
 2. Promote a spirit of friendly rivalry and a respect for the rules among the participant schools.
 3. Regulate competition so that students can experience the greatest educational, social, and aesthetic benefits from the contests.
 4. Reinforce the concept that competition is an integral part of the educational program.
 - C. Foster the concept of accepting decisions of contest officials without protest and treating officials as co-partners in the educational process of competition.

ACEL Fine Arts Contest Eligibility

- I. School Eligibility Requirements
 - A. Participating Schools must be members of ACEL.
 - B. All Forms and Fees must be sent to the ACEL Fine Arts Coordinator and postmarked by entry deadline, or a late Fee of \$50.00 will be charged to that participating school. No form, no fee = no participation.

- II. Individual Eligibility Requirements
 - A. Participants must be in the 6th -12th grades and aged 11-19 years.
 - B. Participants must have a grade point average of 2.5 or higher.
 - C. Participants must maintain good behavior. Students suspended for fighting, vulgar words, or threats to others will be put on probation and will need the permission of the ACEL Fine Arts Coordinator to participate.

ACEL Fine Arts Contest Events

- I. Vocal/Instrumental Contests
 - A. Ensembles/solos
 - 1. Groups of 15 or more will be considered a Large Ensemble.
 - 2. Groups of fewer than 15 will be considered a Small Ensemble.
 - B. These ensembles may perform from a variety of repertoire.
 - C. Vocal Ensembles may use live music or pre-recorded music without background vocals. A piano and a Bluetooth speaker will be available.
 - 1. Large Ensembles must perform at least two pieces from memory.
 - 2. Small Ensembles may perform only one piece, and that piece must be from memory.
 - D. Warm up and performance
 - 1. For Large Ensembles, maximum time allowed will be 15 minutes for warm-up and 20 minutes for set up and performance.

2. For Small Ensembles, maximum time allowed will be 10 minutes for warm-up and 8 minutes for set up and performance.
- E. Two original conductor scores for each performance piece must be provided for judges with measures numbered.
 - F. No Large Ensemble may perform the same selections as another Large Ensemble from the same school.
 - G. Schools may enter one or more Large Ensembles, but no student may be in more than one Large Ensemble of the same type or performing the same genre of music. For example, a student may not be in two Large Ensembles or two Small Ensembles performing the same genre of music. A student may not perform two vocal solos. BUT a student may be in one large vocal ensemble, one small vocal ensemble, sing a solo, perform in instrumental ensembles, and perform one instrumental solo. Note that each event constitutes its own entry and therefore requires its own entry fee.

II. Visual Art Contests

- A. Participants in this category may submit artwork in the following categories:
 1. Drawing – (Black and White/Color),
 2. Painting – (including oil, acrylic, watercolor, ink wash, gouache, and any other liquid substance)
 3. Sculpture - (must be able to stand or hang freely)
 4. Photography - (Use of any computer programs is prohibited)
- B. Display
 1. All entries should be on display at the start of the festival on the scheduled date, with the artist providing any material for display.
 2. Drawings, photographs, and any paintings not on canvas must be framed or matted.
 3. Entrants may deliver the artwork personally, send it with another entrant from the same school, or mail in their artwork.

4. If the artwork is mailed in, the entrant is responsible for arranging its return. He may pick it up personally or arrange for another entrant from his same organization to take it after the entries have been judged. If the entrant wishes the artwork to be mailed back to him, he must pay a double entry fee for the return of the artwork (or an extra amount equal to the postage of the item). The commissioner will mail back the artwork in its original packaging and is not responsible for any damage to the entry while being mailed to or from the festival. Any entry without an arranged return will be thrown away.

C. Guidelines:

1. No group projects
2. All artworks must have been done within the last two school years.
3. A student may enter a maximum of one entry per category.
4. Nudity is not permitted in ACEL artwork.
5. ACEL artwork may not include profane references to anything, obscene language, extreme violence, self-mutilation, or any content that offends the moral standards of the community, fellow peers, and the ACEL Board of Directors and Officers.

III. Knowledge Competitions

A student may participate in only one Knowledge Competition category per year.

A. Bible Bowl Rules:

1. Bible Bowl teams will have 4 team members, with at least one member representing each gender.
2. First Round of Bible Bowl will be 12 head-to-head Questions, each team member gets a chance to answer three questions in the first round.
3. Each question is worth 10 points.
4. Team with the highest points after round one gets to go first for round 2.

5. Round two of Bible Bowl will be team competition all questions are worth 50 points. The team that goes first will be asked a question in which the team will have 15 seconds to converse to answer their question. If answered correctly, they will get another question; this will continue no more than 3 consecutive questions. If the team answers incorrectly, the Question is then passed to the other team where they will have 10 sec to converse and answer said question. If they get it right, they take over the questions, and they will get another question, this will continue no more than 3 consecutive questions.
6. After 3 questions have been answered correctly in a row the questions are passed to the other team.
7. There will be 12 Questions in Round 2.
8. Final Question: Each team will be asked the same final question where they will have 30 sec to converse and write down their answer. At this time each team can wager their points based on their confidence in their final answer.
9. For example: Team A has 100 points Team B has 150 points, Team A in order to win will have to wager at least 50 of their points to beat team B however if team B wagers all their points and gets it right, they will win (as in Jeopardy).

B. Spelling Bee

1. At registration, students will receive a name tag which indicates the grade level of the student. They will be split between middle (6th-8th) and high school (9th-12th) groups.
2. Students should study the word lists posted on the American Association of Christian Schools website. Middle school students should study the A lists, and high school students should study both A and B lists.

3. Students will be asked to spell a word based on their grade level. In each round, each student will be given a word to spell. The student should repeat the word, spell it, then say the word again. He may ask for origin or an example sentence before he begins spelling.
4. Any student who misses a word during a round will be eliminated from the next round, but if every student in the round misses his word, no student will be eliminated—all will proceed to the next round.
5. When two students remain, either student will be given a word, and the student who misses a word in the round will not be eliminated until the winner-apparent is able to spell one more word correctly.

ACEL Divisions, Ratings, and Awards

- I. Divisions for Performing Art
 - A. All performing art groups will enter either the Gold Division or the Emerald Division. These divisions are separate from the ratings divisions.
 1. The Gold Division is reserved for entrants coming from an organization with a full-time music faculty and well-developed program. The highest level of excellence is expected from this division.
 2. The Emerald Division is reserved for entrants coming from an organization whose music program is led by part-time faculty. While excellence is still expected, this division will be judged with the understanding that the group likely has very little weekly time to prepare. If an organization places within this division two years in a row, the organization will be asked to move up to the Gold Division the following year.
 - B. The Commissioner reserves the right to adjust divisions between the entry deadline and the event to best serve the integrity of the contests.

- II. Ratings for Performing Art.
 - A. Superior -Rating I (Division 1). This rating reflects an outstanding performance. While the judge might have one minor point to criticize and make a helpful suggestion for further improvement, his comment sheet would have A's for all or all but one of the categories. His remarks would generally be complimentary for outstanding work.
 - B. Excellent - Rating II (Division 2). This rating reflects an outstanding performance in many respects, but not one worthy of the highest rating due to minor defects. It is a performance of distinctive quality. The player or group in this division usually shows the results of sound, fundamental training, but the performance lacks the polish and finesse necessary to qualify for Division 1. The comment sheet would contain mostly As, but there would also be a few Bs. The judge would be able to offer a few critiques, albeit on minor details.

- C. Good - Rating III (Division 3). This rating is awarded for a good performance, but one that is not outstanding. The performance shows accomplishment and a marked promise, but it is lacking in one or more essential qualities. This division indicates obvious room for improvement in any of the fundamental items listed on the adjudicator's comment sheet. It is relatively easy for a judge to comment on such a performance because the weaknesses stand out clearly against a generally first-rate background, and suggestions can usually be focused on something specific and helpful. Such a comment sheet might show a few A's and B's, but would reflect a few C's. There would probably not be time or space to record each separate error as it occurred, but the group would have some basically fine qualities, and there should be ample opportunities for the judge to make suggestions for general improvement in those fundamental factors in which the performance revealed weaknesses.
- D. Fair - Rating IV (Division 4). This rating describes a performance that shows some quite a few weaknesses. This classification represents a performance which is generally weak and uncertain. There are numerous errors and the performance reveals basic weaknesses in most of the fundamental factors listed on the score sheet. The judge's comment sheet will show a great many D's. He will probably not devote much space to pointing out specific errors in the works performed. His comments, however, will likely be encouraging and contain helpful suggestions for improvement, such as individual studies and exercises which would contribute to the development of a player or the group.

- E. Poor - Rating V (Division 5). This rating indicates a performance which reveals a great lack of preparation, understanding, or skills. This division is rarely used even by the most critical of judges. In some cases, this may be due to immature students attempting music which is far too advanced for them. In others, it may be due to an accumulation of careless and bad playing habits, which only tend to become accentuated and more noticeable as the player becomes older. The judge's comment sheet will, of course, be filled with D's and E's. He must use a great deal of tact in his comments to soloists or groups in these lower divisions. If there are any commendable features in the performance, they may be singled out. Perhaps there is one outstanding player in the group. He could be held up as a model. Remarks should be honest, never sarcastic. They should make suggestions for improvement.

III. Ratings for Visual art

- A. Entries will be judged by the following criteria:
1. Technique – the use of media and tools (execution and technical skills). The student chooses and controls media and tools effectively to enhance the appearance of the work.
 2. Personal Expression – the level of imagination, creativity and individuality. The expression is unique and the concept presented in a fresh way that is imaginative and inventive.
 3. Organization - The use of elements and principles of art, effectively choosing those which enhance the overall appearance of the work.
 4. Integration – the work integrates technique, expression, and organization through aesthetic and critical judgment to achieve an effective interpretation.
- B. Entries will receive a Rating of: Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair or Poor.

IV. Awards

- A. All performing and visual arts entrants will receive a rating, but only the top entries will receive a contest award.
 1. Performing arts: If more than 6 entrants compete within a category and division, 1st and 2nd place awards will be presented. If 10 or more entrants compete within a category and division, 1st-3rd place awards will be presented.
 2. If fewer than 6 entrants compete within a category and division, no place awards will be presented, but the entrants will still be eligible to compete for the best in show awards.
- B. Large Ensemble/Small Ensemble
 1. Rating Award:
 - *Superior plaque*
 - *Excellent ribbon*
 - *Good, Fair, Poor Certificates*
 2. Contest Award (per category and division)
 - *1st place trophy*
 - *2nd place small trophy*
 - *3rd place plaque*
 3. Showcase Award
 - *Best in show trophy*
 - *2nd place in show medium trophy*
 - *3rd place in show small trophy*
- C. Solos, Visual Art, Spelling
 1. First, Second Place Medals
 2. Superior or Excellent Ribbon
 3. Good Certificate
 4. Fair and Poor participation certificates
- D. Bible Bowl
 1. 1st Place Trophy and medals
 2. 2nd Place Trophy and ribbons
 3. 3rd Place Plaque and ribbons
- E. THE COMMISSIONER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADJUST AWARDS AND AWARD TYPES DEPENDING ON ENTRIES.

ACEL Festival 2023-24

I. Entry

A. Festival Entry Fees (per event)

1. Single entry \$15
2. Small ensemble/Bible bowl \$75
3. Large ensemble \$100

B. Late fee: if post marked after deadline, a late fee of \$50.00 will be charged

C. If an entrant cancels his entry, the fee will be forfeited. It will not be refunded.

D. Forms and fees must be submitted and postmarked by Tues, Feb. 27th

1. Electronic forms are posted on the Arts/Academics Page of the ACEL website.

2. Payment can be made in the ACEL website shopping cart, OR checks may be mailed to the executive director.

- ACEL
C/O: Sandra Merrow
11067 Providence Rd.
Shreveport, LA 71129

II. Event

A. Tentative date: March 16th

B. Tentative time:

1. Arts: 9am-12:30pm (times will be assigned after receiving all entry forms and fees)

2. Academics: 2pm-4:30pm

C. Location:

1. Louisiana College arts building
2. Presser Recital Hall, Band Room, and gallery area

D. Dress Code: Sunday dress to Sunday casual