

# ACEL Dramatic Performing Arts Event

updated 12/16/24

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### 1. Categories

- Theatrical Play Cutting: 5-7 minutes
  - Group
  - Individual
- Poem
  - Short (25 lines or fewer)
  - Pre-20<sup>th</sup> century
  - Other
  - ALL poems should be chosen from the Poetry Out Loud database
- Dramatic Monologue: 1-5 minutes
  - Character monologue from a play
  - Dramatic telling of a story
  - Essay

### 2. Entry

- 1-2 months before the event, an online registration form will be posted on the ACEL Arts and Academics page
- Individuals should enter as individuals, and groups should be entered by their director or school administrator.
- An online payment system will be set up for fee payment, and mail-in instructions will be posted for an alternate method of payment.

### 3. Preliminary Schedule

- 8:30am-9am Check-in
- 9am-11am Solo performers
- 11am-12pm Lunch
- 12pm-2pm Group performances
- 2pm Awards ceremony
  
- A finalized schedule will be emailed to directors and parents after registration has closed.

### 4. Performance pieces

- Play cuttings must be chosen from a published work that allows for competition cutting performances.
- Poems must be chosen from the Poetry Out Loud website.

- Dramatic monologue is the broadest of categories. In the future, this may be refined or split into separate categories. Dramatic monologues may be character monologues from published plays, essays, humor columns, dramatic storytelling with or without characters. Dramatic monologues must be from a published source and cannot be written by the student himself.
- Resources may be, but *are not limited to* backstage.com/monologues, dramanotebook.com/monologues-teenagers, stagemilk.com, davebarry.com.

#### 5. Warm up and performance

- A separate room will be provided as a warm-up space. Performers will cycle through the space just before performance.
- It is highly recommended that groups performing a play cutting dress in costumes, costume suggestion (a cape, hat, or apron, etc. instead of full costume), or dress in uniform black.
- Individuals should not dress in costume but may dress in a manner that suggests the time period of their performance piece.
- Performance will take place in a classroom-type setting. Unit desks, small tables, and chairs may be available to use. List what would be ideal during registration, but be willing to be flexible! You must provide your own hand props, but please keep these to a minimum.
- **Performances will be followed by live adjudicator** comments. The event has a “master class” feel rather than a contest feel.

#### 6. Required paperwork

- Three copies for each performance piece must be provided for judges with any cuttings marked. These should be printed from offline or photocopied from the original—not typed by the student.
- Photo release form for each performer and accompanist

#### 7. Adjudication

- Ratings
  - Superior - Rating I (Division 1) This rating reflects an outstanding performance.
  - 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
  - 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.
  - 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
  - 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.

- Contest Awards
  - All performing and visual arts entrants will receive a rating and be able to take home adjudicator sheets, but only the top entries will be eligible to receive a contest award or be eligible for a “best in show” award.
  - 1st-3rd place contest awards will be presented ONLY IF a quality size group of performance entries have been submitted.
  - If there are too few entries within a category and division, no place awards will be presented, but the entrants will still be eligible to receive a best in show award and honorable mentions.
  - Certificates reflecting adjudicator ranking will be awarded to groups and individuals.
  - If a quality size group of performance entries have been submitted for speech performance categories, medals or ribbons will also be awarded.