

# Speech Faire Rules

## Verse Choir

**Goals:** Students will interpret an author's work creatively and effectively through choral speaking. Students will gain public speaking skills in a safe, nurturing and encouraging environment.

**Guidelines:** Verse Choir may be thought of as music that is not sung. All styles of choral speaking are permitted. Styles appropriate for a verse choir include:

1. Unison Speaking
2. Two groups that alternate stanzas of lines
3. Multiple parts that combine the whole group and small group speaking.
4. Solo parts are generally not permitted unless the piece being presented warrants a small solo section of a speaker. The majority of the piece must be presented in unison, as stated in numbers 1-3.
5. Appropriate gestures can and should be used for support.

### **Rules:**

Please read the rules carefully. Disputing of the rules after the event has occurred will not be accepted. Judge's decisions and rules are FINAL. If you have questions prior to the speech faire, please address those questions before the event.

\*\*\* As this is an elementary school event some rules and requirements may be altered to meet the specific learning needs of our students. Permission must be acquired from the Speech Faire coordinators prior to the competition for special requests. The Coordinators and Administration have the right to make appropriate adjustments/ modification on behalf of the speech faire students to maintain the quality of the competition and help facilitate the learning experiences for all students. (ie: category choice, introduction of poem/speech, speaking and voice quality, timing and or specific feedback.)

1. Students may participate in only one event.
2. Students may not use the same selection more than one year.
3. A group must contain at least two students and no more than ten students.
4. If more than one selection is used, there must be an obvious connection between the selections.
5. The selection must be introduced with the title and author. If the author is unknown or anonymous, the presenter should announce it that way. If the author is a district employee, or family member, it should be acknowledged. The school name and students name may NOT be used in the introduction or in the spoken piece.
6. One or more students may take one step forward to introduce the selection and then step back before beginning. Generally, feet should not move during the presentation. Small appropriate hand gestures are permitted. NO kneeling. All other appropriate gestures/movements are acceptable, if in line with the selection being presented.
7. The selection must be memorized and should reflect the maturity of the grade level the student is in.
8. Props, visual aids and costumes are not permitted. (Ex. A speech or poem about a sport cannot have the students dressed as a baseball player using a bat, football player using a football, cheerleader using pompoms, etc.)
9. Students should dress in appropriate clothing for a speech competition. (Ex: Think of dressing for a special event or a wedding). (Ex: Boys- Dress pants, collared shirt, optional tie. Girls- Dresses, skirts and shirt. Please remember that it is the judges who will make the

determination on appropriate clothing. Spirit wear, school logo's or name may not be displayed or worn.

10. The selection must be spoken and cannot be sung.
11. The selection may be disqualified if they contain words, statements, themes or gestures that are not appropriate in an educational setting such as name calling, i.e. stupid, liar, idiot or sexist/racist remarks.
12. Students may not be prompted or directed. With the exception of kindergarten coaches may not accompany groups to the competition area.
13. A small introduction appropriate for the poem or speech may be spoke prior to the poem and author; however, the introduction cannot be longer in time than the piece being presented. (Ex: If your poem is 20 seconds long, your introduction cannot be 40 seconds long.)
14. A group must earn 50% of the points possible to advance to the next level of competition or the group must meet a certain point level to earn the gold, silver or bronze award in the final competition. If only one competition is held the group must meet a certain point level to earn the gold, silver, or bronze award in the competition as determined prior to the competition by judging officials.
15. Time limits are strictly enforced. Time does include the introduction. A 2-point deduction will be applied for not meeting or exceeding the time limits.

<b>Kindergarten:</b>	<b>No time limits</b>
<b>Grades 1-2:</b>	<b>30 seconds- 2 minutes</b>
<b>Grades 3-4:</b>	<b>1- 3 minutes</b>
<b>Grades 5-6:</b>	<b>1 ½ - 4 minutes</b>

#### **Judging Criteria:**

1. **Quality of the selection:** factors include the literary merit of the selection, its difficulty and originality, its cultural and/or social value, and its appropriateness to the grade level and curriculum. Students are discouraged from using highly receptivity selections particularly in divisions for older students. (15 Points)
2. **Quality of the speakers:** Factors include togetherness of voices, grouping of speaking parts, complementary tones of voices, rate, fluency, intonation (monotone to appropriate variation) and appropriate volume. (15 Points)
3. **Quality of interpretation:** Factors include a demonstrated understanding of the selection, the use of appropriate gestures and the degree of togetherness, the degree of complexity in the speaking parts, appropriate expression of emotion and if indicated, humor. (10 Points)
4. **Overall effectiveness:** Factors include stage presence, audience engagements, confidence and eye contact. (10 Points)

**Student Fees Annual Notice:** Section 5 of Article IX of the State of California Constitution guarantees students a “free public education.” The State Supreme Court concluded in the 1984 case of Hartzell v. Connell (35 Cal.3d.899(1984)), “that all educational activities carried on by public school district, extra-curricular as well as curricular, must be without cost to the student who participates in such activities.” This same ruling found that “mandatory fees for participating in such extra-curricular activities such as drama, music, and athletic competition were illegal under the State Constitution. Furthermore, they also rejected the argument that “fees could be charged so long as the district waived fees for students who were financially unable to pay.” Finally, families unable to financially support all or part of the cost for study trips cannot be compelled to do so. Please contact the Walnut Administration if you have any questions or need additional information regarding free public education.

## **Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation**

**Goals:** Students will communicate orally the thoughts, emotions, and attitudes reflected in a piece of writing. They will choose appropriate material to interpret and will demonstrate effective communication skills. Students will gain public speaking skills in a safe, nurturing and encouraging environment.

**Guidelines:** If more than one selection is used, there must be an obvious relationship between the selections.

### **Rules:**

Please read the rules carefully. Disputing of the rules after the event has occurred will not be accepted. Judges decisions and rules are FINAL. If you have questions prior to the speech faire, please address those questions before the event. If you are unsure if your selection or piece is dramatic or humorous please ask the facilitators for assistance to be placed in the correct category.

In the **dramatic interpretation category**, the selection should be one that is serious in nature and tone. It should NOT be a piece that is humorous in intent that a student interprets dramatically.

In the **humorous interpretation category**, the selection should be one that is humorous in nature and tone, not a serious piece, interpreted as a humorous.

\*\*\* As this is an elementary school event some rules and requirements may be altered to meet the specific learning needs of our students. Permission must be acquired from the speech faire coordinators prior to the competition for special requests. The Coordinators and Administration have the right to make appropriate adjustments/ modification on behalf of the speech faire students to maintain the quality of the competition and help facilitate the learning experiences for all students. (ie: category choice, introduction of poem/speech, speaking and voice quality, timing and or specific feedback.)

1. Students may participate in only one event.
2. Students may not use the same selection more than one year.
3. If more than one selection is used, there must be an obvious connection between the selections.
4. The selection must be introduced with the title and author. If the author is unknown or anonymous, the presenter should announce it that way. If the author is a district employee, or family member, it should be acknowledged. The school name and students name may **NOT** be used in the introduction or in the spoken piece.
5. The student may take one step forward to introduction the selection and then step back before beginning. Generally, feet should not move during the presentation. Small appropriate hand gestures are permitted. **NO** kneeling. All other appropriate gestures/movements are acceptable, if in line with the selection being presented.
6. The selection must be memorized and should be reflect the maturity of the grade level the student is in.
7. Props, visual aids and costumes are not permitted. (Ex. A speech or poem about a sport cannot have the students dressed as a baseball player using a bat, football player using a football, cheerleader using pompoms, etc.)
8. \* Students should dress in appropriate clothing for a speech competition. (Ex: Think of dressing for a special event or a wedding). (Ex: Boys- Dress pants, collared shirt, optional tie. Girls- Dresses, skirts and shirt. Please remember that it is the judges who will make the determination on appropriate clothing. Spirit wear and school logo's or names may not be displayed or worn.

9. The selection must be spoken and cannot be sung.
10. The selection may be disqualified if they contain words, statements, themes or gestures that are not appropriate in an educational setting such as name calling, i.e. stupid, liar, idiot or sexist/racist remarks.
11. Students may not be prompted or directed. If the student loses composure, he or she may pause or begin again as long as time constraints are met.
12. A small introduction appropriate for the poem or speech may be spoke prior to the poem and author; however, the introduction cannot be longer in time than the piece being presented. (Ex: If your poem is 20 seconds long, your introduction cannot be 40 seconds long.)
13. A presenter must earn 50% of the points possible to advance to the next level of competition or a presenter must meet a certain point level to earn the gold, silver or bronze award in the final competition. If only one competition is held the presenter must meet a certain point level to earn the gold, silver, or bronze award in the competition as determined prior to the competition by judging officials.
14. Time limits are strictly enforced. Time does include the introduction. A 2-point deduction will be applied for not meeting or exceeding the time limits.

Kindergarten:	No time limits
Grades 1-2:	30 seconds- 2 minutes
Grades 3-4:	1- 3 minutes
Grades 5-6:	1 ½ - 4 minutes

#### **Judging Criteria:**

1. **Quality of the selection:** factors include the literary merit of the selection, its difficulty and originality, its cultural and/or social value, and its appropriateness to the grade level and curriculum. Students are discouraged from using highly receptivity selections particularly in divisions for older students. (15 Points)
2. **Quality of the speakers:** Factors include articulation, voice quality (distraction to pleasant), rate, fluency, intonation (monotone to appropriate variation) and appropriate volume. (15 Points)
3. **Quality of interpretation:** Factors include a demonstrated understanding of the selection, the use of appropriate gestures, expression of emotion and if indicated, humor. (10 Points)
4. **Overall effectiveness:** Factors include stage presence, audience engagements, confidence and eye contact. (10 Points)

**Student Fees Annual Notice:** Section 5 of Article IX of the State of California Constitution guarantees students a “free public education.” The State Supreme Court concluded in the 1984 case of Hartzell v. Connell (35 Cal.3d.899(1984)), “that all educational activities carried on by public school district, extra-curricular as well as curricular, must be without cost to the student who participates in such activities.” This same ruling found that “mandatory fees for participating in such extra-curricular activities such as drama, music, and athletic competition were illegal under the State Constitution. Furthermore, they also rejected the argument that “fees could be charged so long as the district waived fees for students who were financially unable to pay.” Finally, families unable to financially support all or part of the cost for study trips cannot be compelled to do so. Please contact the Walnut Administration if you have any questions or need additional information regarding free public education.