

Middle School Students Attend Book Battles



Front row: Lakynn Gates, Ella Hanson, Grace Peterson, Kahlan Vannurden, Isaac Gonzalez, Kezdin Brown, Asher Thompson, Jaydon Lynch, Maris Undlin, Falyn Reidman, Colton Grondahl.

Middle row: Trapper Ackerson, Taryn Rice, Rynnlee Beck, Violet Eide, Bristol Rice, Emory Williams, Emma Jensen, Keenan Lakefield

Back Row: Lenée Volker, Payton Haman, Jake Mau, Brody Grondahl, Ava Hanson, Callie Stroklund, Kenna Aufforth, Kiley Aufforth, Ayla Anderson, Mersadie Miller, Aleena Iverson, Brooklyn Nelson, Rylee Quigley

Not pictured: Taley Michel, Tenley Michel, Brooke Peterson, Olivia Harris, Kendahl Gilseth

Over the past 5 months several middle school students in Mohall and Kenmare have been participating in a reading competition program offered for the first time in ND by the ND State Library called the Battle of the Books. The official Battle of the Books Handbook states, “Battle of the Books is a program that aims to encourage reading for pleasure, improve comprehension skills, and develop teamwork and sportsmanship.” While this competition is popular in many states, this is the first year that the North Dakota State Library has offered this program to schools in North Dakota at the middle school level.

In November, Mohall and Kenmare School librarians offered this program to the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. Kenmare had 18 students participate while Mohall had 21 participants. The students created teams of 3-5 students. Each team was tasked with reading 16 books selected by the NDSL. Teams could decide the best way in which to acquire knowledge on all 16 books. They could individually read each book or split up the task and share their

knowledge. Each school had monthly practices and informational meetings in the libraries to prepare to compete against each other. While the format for schools was to compete at just the individual school level this year, librarians Kris Zimmer (KHS) and Rhonda Undlin (MLS) thought it would be more motivating to offer a friendly school vs school competition.

The two schools had 2 meeting dates where they were to compete. February's competition was held in Kenmare and a second round was held in Mohall in March. In both rounds, teams completed 2 written rounds and an oral round. Students were asked two types of questions during the competition. "In which book" questions required the students to provide the correct title and author for the clues given about a book, and content questions related to any of the 16 books.

The 16 book selection included many different genres to accommodate for a wide variety of student interest and commitment level. The list included *The In-Between* by Van Heideich, *Starfish* by Fipps, *When Stars Are Scattered* by Jamieson & Mohamed, *Allies* by Gratz, *Guts* by Telgemeier, *Front Desk* by Yang, *Merci Suarez Changes Gears* by Medina, *City of Ghosts* by Schwab, *Restart* by Korman, *Hello, Universe* by Kelly, *I Survived the September 11th Attacks* by Tarshis, *A Tale Dark & Grimm* by Gidwitz, *Found* by Haddix, *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Sonnenblick, *The Lightning Thief* by Riordan, and *Bridge to Terabithia* by Paterson.

The first school to school battle was held in February. The GOAT's from Kenmare took 1st place with 30 points. Mr. Beck's Hufflepuffs from MLS took 2nd place with 29 points and Kenmare's Book-e-teers took third place with 27 points.

All teams improved their point totals at the battle in March. The Mavericks from MLS took 1st place with 46 points. Mohall's Pickles took a close second with 43 points and Kenmare's GOAT's took third place with 36 points.

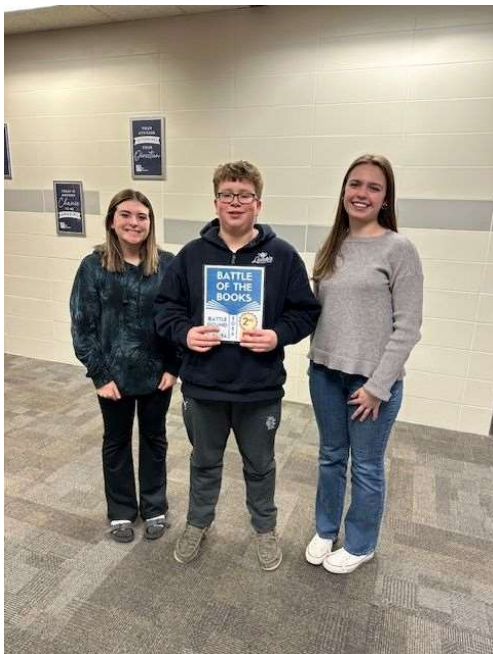
This was an exciting new experience for the students and librarians at Kenmare and MLS. We are eager to learn about what the North Dakota State Library has in store for the 2024-2025 school year.



1st place, Round 1 & 3rd place, Round 2:
Goats: Kylee Aufforth, Kenna Aufforth
Callie Stroklund, Brooklyn Nelson,
Kezdin Brown



3rd place, Round 1: Book-e-teers
Emory Williams, Taley Michel, Tenley Michel



2nd place, Round: 1 Mr. Beckss Huffelpuffs
Payton Haman, Brody Grondahl,
Lenee Volker not pic: Jake Mau



1st place, Round 2: Mavericks
Grace Peterson, Taryn Rice, Ava
Hanson, Bristol Rice, Kahlan Vannurden



2nd place, Round 2: MLS Pickles
Trapper Ackerson, Rynnlee Beck,
Maris Undlin, Falyn Reidman, Colton
Grondahl