ELEMENTARY SCHOOL / 2026–27

BEYOND THE BOOK

READING SHOWCASE

Read it. Make it. Share it.

Bring a book you enjoyed this year to life through creativity, critical thinking, and your own connection to reading.

CHOOSE YOUR WAY TO CREATE

PROJECT CATEGORY	WHAT YOU WILL CREATE
From Page to Stage	Become a character in a wax museum.
A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words	Show your book ideas in an infographic.
Recycled Reads	Create a character or symbol from your favorite book.

- **Every entry:** a project + a presentation about your connection to the book and why you recommend it.
- Each school selects 9 elementary and 9 middle school entries. Middle grades: NDE sends 3; NDJS sends 6. Judges award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each category.
- **Choose your book. Pick one project. Follow the checklists inside.**

PARENTS, YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Selection is highly competitive! KES representatives will compete against students from other schools across Duplin County. Please help your child plan, gather materials, check progress, and practice presenting a project they can be proud of. The creative work should remain their own.

DCS DISTRICT SHOWCASE

EVENT DETAIL	SCHEDULE & LOCATION
Showcase Dates	Elementary: March 16 | Middle grades: March 17
Notification	Students chosen for the district competition will be notified by Feb. 10.
Location	Ed Emory Auditorium

My project starts here

Read these rules before choosing your project.

Student name / grade / teacher: _____

Book title and author(s): _____

MY BOOK + ENTRY CHECK

- ☐ I read this book during this school year. It may be fiction or nonfiction.
- ☐ My book fits my age and reading level and offers enough challenge and depth for my grade.
- ☐ I may use a book read on my own, in a small group, or with my whole class.
- ☐ I will use the book itself for my project and presentation, rather than a movie or TV version.
- ☐ I will submit only one entry. My entry includes a project and a presentation about my connection to the book and why I recommend it.

HOW SCHOOL SELECTION WORKS

DLMCS work with school leaders and classroom teachers to plan school participation. Schools may enter any combination of categories; they do not need an entry in every category. For example, all 9 entries may be in one category, or 3 in each. Schools may also give additional school-level awards.

My project choice / partner(s), if this category allows them: _____

MY PROJECT DATES

MILESTONE	DATE
School project due for final critique	**December 11, 2026**
Project due for final scoring	**January 8, 2027**
District selections notified by	**February 10, 2027**
Practice/checkpoint 1	
Practice/checkpoint 2	

From Page to Stage

The Wax Museum Project | BUILD CHECKLIST

01 MAKE MY PROJECT

- [ ] I will become a character or real person from my book. I will dress up and stand still like a wax figure, then come to life when a visitor arrives. I do not need to sculpt with wax.
- [ ] I will complete this project by myself. I will not use AI.
- [ ] I will make an 8.5 × 11 inch flyer with the correct book title and author(s).
- [ ] My flyer will use information and pictures to show important actions, accomplishments, or contributions.
- [ ] My flyer will show motivations (reasons for acting), qualities, or challenges, using details from the book.
- [ ] I will make my flyer neat, organized, and easy to read. An acrylic flyer stand is provided at the district showcase.
- [ ] My costume or appearance will fit my character or person. I will plan posture and facial expressions that help show who I am. Props are welcome but not required.
- [ ] Possible props: a baseball for Babe Ruth, or a chocolate cake or newt for Matilda. The district provides the station push button.

MY PLAN

My focus / subject / scene and the book details I will use:

From Page to Stage

PRESENTATION + PRACTICE CHECKLIST

02 GET READY TO SHARE

- [ ] I will say who my character or person is, name the book, and explain their role in the story.
- [ ] I will tell what we can learn from this person's life or work and explain important actions or accomplishments.
- [ ] I will explain why the story matters and what impact the character or person made.
- [ ] I will describe personality traits and motivations, using accurate book details.
- [ ] I will explain what interested me about this character and why the story is meaningful to me.
- [ ] My speech will be 3 minutes or less. I may use notecards or memorize it. I will be ready to speak with very little prompting.
- [ ] I will speak clearly at a pace people can follow. I will use a fitting character voice, expressions, posture, and gestures.

TRY THESE SUCCESS TIPS

Pick someone you care about. Try gestures, a voice, or posture that fits. Rehearse several times for timing, expression, and confidence. Make eye contact and give your words meaning.

03 REHEARSE + REFINE

My personal connection and why I recommend this book:

After practice, I want to improve:

From Page to Stage | SCORING CHECKLIST

Review each row. Check the box when your work meets the criterion.

CRITERION	POINTS
FLYER INFORMATION / 16 POINTS	
☐ Flyer includes correct book title and author	2
☐ Flyer is neat, organized, and easy to read	2
☐ Flyer contains notable actions, accomplishments, or contributions	6
☐ Flyer has motivations, qualities, or challenges using book details	6
CHARACTER PORTRAYAL / 9 POINTS	
☐ Costume/appearance/prop appropriately represents the character/person	3
☐ Thoughtful posture, expression, or optional props enhance portrayal	6
ORAL PRESENTATION / 25 POINTS	
☐ Accurately identifies character/person, book, and role	2
☐ Explains notable actions, accomplishments, or contributions	4
☐ Explains motivations, qualities, or challenges using book details	4
☐ Explains significance and impact in the book or life story	4
☐ Communicates accurate, insightful information	3
☐ Speaks clearly and at an understandable pace	3
☐ Uses appropriate in-character voice, expression, and gestures	3
☐ Is prepared and stays within 3-minute limit	2
50 POINTS POSSIBLE	**My review date:** _____

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

Infographic | BUILD CHECKLIST

01 MAKE MY PROJECT

- [ ] I will make my own original infographic: a page that uses pictures and words to explain ideas from my book. I will work by myself and will not use AI.
- [ ] I will focus on one or more areas: characters (personalities, challenges, relationships), theme (main message or ideas), or major conflict/events (big problems and turning points).
- [ ] I will include the book title and author.
- [ ] My infographic will be 8.5 × 14 inches. I may draw it by hand or make it digitally. If digital, I will print it for display.
- [ ] I will develop my chosen focus with correct information and details that show I understand the book.
- [ ] I will make the page attractive, neat, organized, and easy to read. Colors, fonts, and graphics will help explain my ideas.
- [ ] I will put information in an order that makes sense. My layout will help people follow ideas and see how they connect.
- [ ] My choices will show my own thoughtful understanding of the book.

MY PLAN

My focus / subject / scene and the book details I will use:

A Picture is Worth

PRESENTATION + PRACTICE CHECKLIST

02 GET READY TO SHARE

- [ ] I will introduce myself and share the book title, author, and why I chose this book.
- [ ] I will explain my chosen focus using clear, specific book details.
- [ ] For characters, I will explain personalities, challenges, and relationships. For theme, I will explain the message and how the story shows it. For conflict/events, I will explain turning points and their effects.
- [ ] I will explain what interested me and why this story is meaningful to me.
- [ ] I will give accurate, thoughtful information and explain why I chose particular scenes or parts.
- [ ] I will speak clearly and confidently at an easy-to-follow pace. My presentation will be 3 minutes or less.

TRY THESE SUCCESS TIPS

Choose a book you connect with so your excitement shows. Practice sharing your ideas and explaining why you chose each scene or part of your infographic.

03 REHEARSE + REFINE

My personal connection and why I recommend this book:

After practice, I want to improve:

A Picture is Worth | SCORING CHECKLIST

Review each row. Check the box when your work meets the criterion.

CRITERION	POINTS
INFOGRAPHIC / 25 POINTS	
☐ Includes book title and author	1
☐ Clearly develops chosen focus area(s): character, theme, and/or conflict/events	6
☐ A printed or hand-drawn infographic on an 8.5" × 14" sheet of paper	1
☐ Information presented is accurate to the book	4
☐ Explanations show understanding of the selected literary focus	6
☐ Visually appealing, easy to read, and well-organized	1
☐ Color, graphics, and fonts support understanding	1
☐ Shows original interpretation and thoughtful design choices	2
☐ Information follows a logical sequence	2
☐ Layout makes relationships and ideas easy to follow	1
ORAL PRESENTATION / 25 POINTS	
☐ Introduces themselves, the book, the author, and the reason for choosing the book.	2
☐ Explains chosen focus with clear book details such as character, theme, or major conflict/event	8
☐ Explains what interested them about the book and why they find the story meaningful	6
☐ Communicates accurate, insightful information	4
☐ Speaks clearly and at an understandable pace	3
☐ Speaks clearly and confidently within 3 minutes	2
50 POINTS POSSIBLE	**My review date:** _____

Recycled Reads

Create a Character or Symbol from Your Favorite Book! | BUILD CHECKLIST

01 MAKE MY PROJECT

- [ ] I will use a recycled 2-liter bottle to make an original 3D character, person, or symbol from my book. I will work by myself and will not use AI.
- [ ] I will choose a fictional character, a real person from fiction or nonfiction, or a symbol: an important object, idea, or concept in the story or theme.
- [ ] My creation will show personalities, challenges, or relationships if I choose a character/person, or an important story/theme idea if I choose a symbol.
- [ ] I will use the 2-liter bottle as the base and add details readers can recognize from the book.
- [ ] I may add fabric, paper, paint, clay, or other decorations. Materials must be school-appropriate and easy to transport. I will choose each material to show a book detail.
- [ ] I will build neatly, attach pieces securely, and pay attention to details so the bottle is stable and well finished.
- [ ] I will use materials creatively to bring my subject to life. I will consider recycled or repurposed materials.
- [ ] I will add an 8.5 × 11 inch flyer with the book title and author(s). An acrylic flyer stand is provided at the district competition.

MY PLAN

My focus / subject / scene and the book details I will use:

Recycled Reads

PRESENTATION + PRACTICE CHECKLIST

02 GET READY TO SHARE

- [ ] I will introduce myself, name the book and author, and identify my character, person, or symbol.
- [ ] I will explain how my design connects to the book and what we can learn from my subject.
- [ ] I will explain why my subject matters and what impact it made, using specific book details.
- [ ] I will explain what interested me about my subject and why the story is meaningful to me.
- [ ] I will describe my materials and design choices and explain how each represents important book details.
- [ ] I will give accurate, thoughtful information, speak clearly and confidently, and be ready to answer questions.
- [ ] I will practice a presentation of 3 minutes or less, as stated in the scoring rubric.

TRY THESE SUCCESS TIPS

Pick a meaningful subject. Plan where props and details will go before building. Try different materials and textures for depth and interest. Practice explaining your choices with confidence.

03 REHEARSE + REFINE

My personal connection and why I recommend this book:

After practice, I want to improve:

Recycled Reads | SCORING CHECKLIST

Review each row. Check the box when your work meets the criterion.

CRITERION	POINTS
2-LITER BOTTLE / 25 POINTS	
☐ Displays an original, imaginative interpretation of character, person, or symbol from the book	1
☐ Design details accurately connect creation to book	5
☐ Bottle is stable, well constructed, and neatly finished	3
☐ Attachments and details are secure and carefully executed	2
☐ Uses the two-liter bottle as the structural base	1
☐ Additional materials are selected purposefully to represent book details	6
☐ Design elements and materials bring the subject to life	6
☐ 8.5" × 11" flyer accompanying project that includes book title and author(s)	1
ORAL PRESENTATION / 25 POINTS	
☐ Introduces themselves and identifies the book, author, and represented character/person/symbol	2
☐ Shares the significance of the character/person/symbol in the story and uses specific book details	5
☐ Explains the importance of design choices	5
☐ Explains personal connection	5
☐ Communicates accurate, insightful information	3
☐ Communicates clearly and responds to questions	3
☐ Speaks clearly and confidently within 3 minutes	2
50 POINTS POSSIBLE	**My review date:** _____

Parent Guide

Support the process. Help your reader prepare to shine.

This guide turns the source requirements into family support steps. The project should reflect your child's own reading, understanding, and creative work.

HELP YOUR CHILD GET STARTED

- [ ] Read the event flyer and the checklist for your child's chosen category. Confirm school deadlines and submission details with the teacher or DLMC.
- [ ] Help your child choose a book read this school year that fits their age, reading level, and grade-level challenge. Independent, small-group, and whole-class books are allowed.
- [ ] Talk about the book itself. Ask: What interested you? Which details support your ideas? Why would you recommend this book?
- [ ] Help plan time, gather appropriate materials, and arrange safe transport. Use the exact size, format, and group rules for the chosen category.

SUPPORT STUDENT OWNERSHIP

All elementary projects are individual. No AI should be used.

- [ ] Encourage your child to make and explain their own creative choices. Review the scoring checklist together and let your child revise the work.
- [ ] Listen as your child practices. Help check clarity, confidence, pace, and the 3-minute presentation limit.

BEFORE SUBMISSION

- Confirm that the project and presentation are ready, required names/titles/labels or printed materials are included, and the work meets its category rules. For video entries, check permissions, end credits, file playback, and the viewable Google Drive link.
- **District event:** March 16 - elementary; March 17 - middle grades.
- **Location:** Ed Emory Auditorium. Schools select district entries; judges award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each category.

Teacher / DLMC contact: _____

Final scoring due: Jan. 8, 2027 | Family practice date: _____