

Oratorical Contest

Each year the fifth graders at VCE participate in the Optimist International Oratorical Contest. Forsyth County has the largest Optimist Oratorical Contest in the nation, thanks to the support of the schools and parents in this community.

All fifth graders are required to write a speech on the topic that has been given the schools by the Optimist Club. This year's topic is: "How my optimism helps me overcome obstacles..."

Speeches must NOT be more than three minutes in length.

All students will present their speeches in their homeroom class; however they will be working on their speeches in their Language Arts class. Using an objective rating scale, each homeroom class will select the one boy speech and one girl speech that they believe best represents this topic. Students will be judged on poise, content of speech, delivery, and presentation as well as overall effectiveness of speech.

The 16 homeroom representatives that are chosen will compete in the Vickery Creek Café for two overall winners (one boy and one girl). In this competition, the judges will be selected from outside of the school to prevent any bias in selection. Our school winners will be selected in early February of 2012, so the students will need to start thinking about what they will write about. We have released the topic so that the students may begin the brainstorming process over the holidays and be ready to write when they return in January. **Most of the writing will be done at home**, however, we will talk about the speech writing process and delivery of speech in class. Speech writing and presentation are part of the 5th grade curriculum and is a GPS standard in ELA.

Very Important: Contestants must state the official topic... "How my optimism helps me overcome obstacles..." before beginning the speech. There will be a three point penalty for failing to state the subject. Timing will begin after the title has been stated.

Notes may be used if the contestant desires. Microphones and podiums will be provided for the final competition. The use of props and costumes is not permitted.

Any quotations must be identified and properly credited.

No reference may be made that might identify the contestant, his/her family, or the specific area from which he/she originates. This does not include religion or nationality.

VCE is proud and excited to be able to participate in this event. If you have any further questions, please contact your child's teacher.

Thank you,

VCE Fifth Grade Teachers