



## Sixth Annual Elementary Speech Meet

Our sixth annual speech meet will be taking place on April 23 and 24. The students of NHCA grow in so many ways with the opportunity to memorize and present their speeches in front of peers and parents. Please carefully read over the following information, as students will soon need to select their speeches.

Speech Meet Days and Times		Multipurpose Room	Fellowship Hall
Monday, April 23	9:30 – 11:00	Grade 1	Grade 4
	1:00 – 2:30	Grade 2	Grade 6
Tuesday, April 24	9:30 – 11:00	Grade 3	Grade 5

Categories include: **Bible Memorization** and **Poetry** at every grade level  
**Fable and Folklore** for grades 2-4  
**Patriotic Oration** for grades 5-6  
**Dramatic Bible Prose** for grades 5-6

Your child's teacher has a selection of grade level speeches and will help your child choose his/her speech during class time.

**Please post the enclosed guideline sheets** in a prominent place so that you will be able to refer to it for both the **required format** of the various speeches as well as **suggestions** for improvement.

**Volunteers are needed!** Information about how we can use your help will be coming home soon.

**The majority of work on the speeches is to be done at home.** Students should be prepared to give their speeches as they will practice in front of their own classes the week of standardized testing (April 16-20). The actual speeches will be performed in front of invited parents and judges on April 23 and 24, and top scoring students in each category will have the opportunity to perform in front of the whole school on Monday, April 30 at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall. God bless you and your family in this chance to grow!



## **SPEECH MEET**

### **Category Descriptions**

#### **Poetry (grades 1-6)**

Students must begin their presentations by announcing the title and author. Students should make the poem come alive through facial and vocal expressions. Some body movement/gestures may be appropriate to enhance the presentation but are not required. When used, they should be for emphasis, not to draw “word pictures” with their hands or to act out a scene. Gestures should not be overdone – the face and voice should “tell the story.” Speech techniques are to be emphasized. The entire presentation must be memorized.

#### **Bible Memorization (grades 1-6)**

Students will do the following:

- State Scripture reference
- State version of Bible
- Recite Scripture
- Give summary of Scripture’s meaning.

The introduction shall include the Scripture reference and Bible version. No other introduction is required. After quoting the verses, the student will give a one or two sentence explanation of the meaning of the verses. As the student prepares, adult help may be necessary to explain the passage, but the student must express the meaning in his/her own words, not those of the adult. Facial and vocal expressions plus good speech techniques should be evident. Gestures are not required and only minimal natural speaking gestures are appropriate. The presentation does not need to be dramatized.

Bible passages for memorization for each grade level must be selected from the list provided in the Bible Memorization handbook.

### **Fable and Folklore (grades 2-4)**

Students must bring their presentations by announcing the title, author or source of story, and moral application or introductory information regarding the selection. Students should make the presentation come alive through facial and vocal expressions. Some body movement/gestures may be appropriate to enhance the presentation, but are not required. When used, they should be for emphasis, not to draw “word pictures” with their hands or to act out a scene. Gestures should not be overdone – the face and voice should “tell the story.” Speech techniques are to be emphasized. The entire presentation must be memorized.

The moral application or background is provided in italics for most selections. For selections without this information, the teacher may compose the moral application for the student to present.

### **Patriotic Oration (grade 5 and 6)**

This category is for patriotic material written by or presented by famous persons. All presentation must begin with an introduction of two to three sentences. The introduction should include the title and some background information regarding the time or circumstances surrounding the speech. The background does not have to be original on the part of the student. The background for several of the selections is in the italicized paragraph prior to the body of the article. For those articles without such information, the background must be provided through knowledge or research (with adult assistance permitted).

Facial and vocal expressions and good speech techniques should be evident, as well as an obvious patriotic spirit arising from the presentation. Gestures, if used, should be appropriate for a patriotic speech, and not for the purpose of dramatizing the presentation. The entire presentation must be memorized.

### **Dramatic Bible Prose (grades 5 and 6)**

All presentations must begin with an introduction. The introduction shall include the title and Scripture address from which the story is derived.

This category is for the dramatic presentation of a Bible story, in the form of a speech or interpretation, but not acted out as in a play. The student should make the selection come alive by mentally becoming a part of the story. Appropriate gestures may be used to enhance the presentation, but should not be overdone. The entire presentation, including an introduction of the title, must be memorized.

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR THE STUDENT**

1. **Practice your selection every day.** Say it at home every day. Be sure to say it for your parents at least once a day. Do your very best each time.
2. **Stand correctly.** Stand up tall, yet relaxed. Look at your entire audience. Say the title and author, then wait for three second before you being the selection. At the end of the selection hold your last motion or feeling for three seconds, then come back to your beginning position for three seconds as you smile at your audience. Never rush back to your seat on the last word.
3. **Say your selection with expression (feeling).**

Some of the feeling you'll find are:

Gladness

Sadness

Anger

Fear

Surprise

Worry

Wonder

Pride

Use all of your face muscles to show these feelings. Your voice should also project these feelings.

Figure out the feelings you should have with your selection. There are many other types of feelings than the ones listed, so use your imagination. Use all of the feelings your selection calls for each time you say it. This will help you to learn quickly and really enjoy saying your selection. You may want to practice in front of a mirror to see whether you are really showing the feeling that is needed.

4. **The use of motions can enhance your presentation**, if they are natural for your selection. No speaker stands like a board while speaking, and of course, you certainly do not want to appear as stiff as a board. On the other hand, too many motions will detract from what you have to say and the way you say it. Any motions you use should add to your selection, making it more interesting, more believable and more enjoyable for you and for you audience. Use motions "few and far between" for emphasis, not frequently to "describe" or "outline" objects or actions with your hands. Learn a few natural motion right away and practice saying your selection with the motions every time.
5. **Speak slowly and clearly.** Stop after each thought. Remember to speak with a tall mouth (you should be able to put two fingers between your lips when you talk). This will help you say your words clearly and loudly. Say every sound (beginning, middle, and ending) of every word in your selection. If you have a tape recorder or video recorder, it is a tremendous help in learning and practicing your selection. You should train yourself to project your voice for an audience situation. Microphones will not be used in the meet.