

Contests Summary

Individual districts determine the number of entries, up to 3 students per contest. Number of contestants advancing to State are listed in square brackets below. Consult the Academic Handbook for specifics.

Art Memory (4/5 & 6-8) [2]: Students are challenged to identify the artist and the work and answer questions about the art and artists found in the Art Smart Bulletin.

Calculator Applications (6-8) [2]: This contest develops mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills to real-life problems.

Creative Writing (1 & 2) [1]: This event is designed to promote creativity and encourage writing skills at an early age. Using the captions and pictures, students have 30 minutes to create an original story based on the captions.

Dictionary Skills (4/5 & 6-8) [2]: Students use all elements of the dictionary (Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition) as they learn valuable research skills and apply reasoning to extract information.

Impromptu Speaking (7/8) [2]: Students are challenged to think quickly and communicate effectively in this contest. They organize their thoughts on a topic in 3 minutes and then speak for up to 5 minutes without notes.

Listening Skills (4/5 & 6-8) [2]: Good listening skills enhance all academic areas. Contestants take notes as they listen to prerecorded audio and then use their notes to answer 25 questions in this 6-minute contest.

Maps, Graphs, and Charts (4, 5, 6, 7, 8) [2]: Student use an atlas (preferably the Nystrom Desk Atlas, 2018 or newer) and provided maps, graphs, and charts to answer questions. Grades 6-8 have additional questions over geography, Texas history, and American history.

Mathematics (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) [*]: In a comprehensive multiple choice, 30-minute test, students are challenged in a variety of general math questions. Grades 6-8 feature a section of special topics, chosen every two years, to enhance the curriculum. **[1 contestant advances from grades 2 and 3 each; 2 contestants advance in grades 4 through 8 each]*

Modern Oratory (7/8) [2]: A challenge in writing and speaking, contestants select one topic from the list and prepare a short original speech to examine the pros and cons of an issue and defend their points, incorporating a variety of skills. Contestants take a stand on only one side of the issue.

Music Memory (3/4, 5/6, & 7/8) [2]: Students identify composers and musical selections from the world's best classics and modern musical marvels. This two-part contest has students answer 20 multiple choice items and then identify composers and selections given a short audio clip.

Number Sense (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) [2]: Contestants find high-speed solutions to math problems in this exciting and challenging 10-minute contest of mental mathematics.

On-Site Drawing (6, 7, 8) [2]: Contestants have 45 minutes to produce a rendering of a still life display of 4 to 7 objects on multi-use drawing paper. Art works are judged by qualified artists and teachers.

Oral Interpretation (4, 5, 6, & 7/8) [2]: Contestants select, prepare, and read a literary selection within a 6-minute time limit with closed-book introduction. Presentations are evaluated on aspects of performance and overall effectiveness. Contest alternates between Poetry and Prose annually. 2026 is a Prose year.

Ready Writing (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) [2]: This event brings challenge for the gifted writer. Students are given a choice between two prompts. Each prompt defines the audience and provides or implies the purpose for writing.

Science (6, 7, 8) [2]: Earth, Life, and Physical Science information found in current textbooks are tested in this 30-minute, 50-question multiple choice contest.

Spelling (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7/8) [2]: As spelling words are played from prerecorded audio, students write each word. The first 75% of the contest consists of words from the official Spelling Lists; the last 25% are outside words.

Storytelling (1, 2, 3) [1]: Contestants hear a story that they then retell before an audience. Presentations are evaluated on aspects of performance and overall effectiveness.

Vocabulary (5, 6, & 7/8) [2]: Contestants are challenged to use their vocabulary to complete this 30-question test consisting of sentence completion, analogy, and reading comprehension questions. Great prep for college entrance exams as well as improving general vocabulary skills.



2025-2026

Academic Program Brief

