

WVCEA State Category Rules

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(State Categories only)

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AREA ONE: Bible

Category 1:	Bible Quizzing	SH	JH	EL
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(State Categories only)

Category 7:	Bible Sword Drill			EL
Category 8:	Bible Preaching with Technology; Expository, Evangelistic & Topical	SH	JH (evangelistic only)	
Category 9:	Bible Teaching with Technology	SH	JH	

GENERAL RULES:

The AACS & WVCEA will use the KJV Bible for judging Bible competition categories. The King James Version will be the only authorized translation used in any competition category.

RULES BY CATEGORY

Category 7: Bible Sword Drill

Judges needed: 5; the Moderator, the Scorekeeper, and 3 Line Judges

1. Students should be divided into rounds of no more than 8 students per round. They can draw numbers for the rounds or be pre-assigned for the rounds.
2. Tape should be placed on the floor or platform where the students are standing. All participants should stand behind the tape facing the moderator and the audience. Then moderator should sit at a table or in the first pew and use a microphone (if needed).
3. Bibles (supplied by WVCEA) shall be held straight up (elbows unbent) over the head with one arm, having the other arm down at the side. The moderator shall give the Scripture reference twice, then say "CHARGE." The students then look up the verse, and step over the tape, line, or other marker with their finger on the verse.
4. There should be at least 3 line judges on the floor or platform with the students, but they should stand off to the side each time a Scripture reference is given. One line judge will be assigned to watch for the first person over the line. That judge will then position him/herself next to that student and verify that the student's finger is on the verse just called. Another line judge will be assigned to watch for the second person over the line, and the 3rd line judge will watch for the 3rd person over the line. Each judge will then stand by that person, verify that the student does have his/her finger on the correct verse, then give that person's name (and indicate 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, to the scorekeeper.
5. The student's finger must be on the verse, not moving to it. If the student is on an incorrect verse or is moving to the verse and not on it, 10 points will be deducted.
6. 10 points are given to the 1st person, 5 points given to the 2nd person, and 3 points to the 3rd person finding the correct verse. The students do not read the verse.

7. A round is complete whenever one person reaches 70 points. The 1st place person will have 70 points, whoever has the next most points will be considered 2nd, and the next person with the most points will be considered 3rd. The final round will consist of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners from each preliminary round. The final round will conclude when someone reaches 100 points. That person will be the winner, the next person with the most points will be 2nd, and the person with the 3rd highest points will be 3rd.

Category 8: Bible Preaching with Technology; Expository, Evangelistic & Topical

All the National Rules for Bible Preaching apply to this category; however, different technology mediums may be used to enhance the content of the sermon subject or illustrate. Never should technology replace the speaker.

Category 9: Bible Teaching with Technology

All the National Rules for Bible Teaching apply to this category; however, different technology mediums may be used to enhance the content of the lesson or illustrate. Never should technology replace the teacher.

AREA TWO: Music

Category 1: Female Vocal Solo	SH	JH	EL
Category 2: Male Vocal Solo	SH	JH	EL
Category 3: Instrumental Brass Solo	SH	JH	EL
Category 4: Instrumental Woodwind Solo	SH	JH	EL
Category 5: Instrumental String Solo	SH	JH	EL
Category 6: Classical Guitar Solo	SH	JH	EL
Category 7: Instrumental Percussion Solo	SH	JH	EL
Category 8: Sacred Piano Solo	SH	JH	EL
Category 9: Classical Piano Solo	SH	JH	EL
Category 10: Small Vocal Ensemble	SH	JH	EL
Category 11: Large Vocal Ensemble	SH	JH	EL
Category 12: Choral Group	SH	JH	EL
Category 13: Small Instrumental Ensemble	SH	JH	EL
Category 14: Large Instrumental Ensemble	SH	JH	EL
Category 15: Orchestra/Band	SH	JH	EL
Category 16: Handbell/Handchime Ensemble	SH	JH	EL
Category 17: Handbell/Handchime Choir	SH	JH	EL
Category 18: Sacred Piano Duet	SH	JH	EL
Category 19: Classical Piano Duet	SH	JH	EL

(State Categories only)

Category 20: Youth Choir	SH	JH	EL
Category 21: Sacred Multiple Keyboards	SH	JH	EL
Category 22: Classical Multiple Keyboards	SH	JH	EL
Category 23: Percussion Ensemble	SH	JH	EL
Category 24: Handbell Solo	SH	JH	EL
Category 25: Organ Solo	SH	JH	EL
Category 26: Recorder Solo	SH	JH	EL
Category 27: Hymnplaying	SH	JH	X
Category 28: Composition - Original	SH	JH	X
Category 29: Composition - Arranged	SH	JH	X
Category 30: Instrumental String Solo (Non-Orchestral)	SH	JH	EL

RULES BY CATEGORY

Category 1: Female Vocal Solo

1. Junior High and Elementary will perform 1 selection.

Category 2: Male Vocal Solo

1. Junior High and Elementary will perform 1 selection.

Category 20: Youth Choir

1. A youth choir consists of 25 or more singers. It may be directed.
2. Each youth choir will perform two numbers within 15 minutes. At least one selection must be sacred and in English. The intent is that the piece be 100% in English. Incidental use of a foreign word or phrase would be accepted. An entire verse in a foreign language would result in penalty.
3. Memory is required of vocal groups. Failure to memorize when required will result in disqualification.

Category 21: Sacred Multiple Keyboards

1. Sacred Multiple Keyboards consists of two or more students playing two or more keyboards. Only sacred music is acceptable.

Category 22: Classical Multiple Keyboards

1. Classical Multiple Keyboards consists of two or more students playing two or more keyboards. Only classical music is acceptable.

Category 23: Percussion Ensemble

1. Students will perform one selection or medley within 8 minutes.
2. Students will not be required to memorize the selection for competition.
3. If the ensemble has 2-6 members, it may not be directed; if the ensemble has 7-12 members, it may be directed.
4. Music for the percussion ensemble must be from “standard concert literature” and must conform to the General Rules for Music. Since much of this literature is unaccompanied, and accompaniment is optional this category does not have to be memorized.
5. No electronic devices are permitted. No drum sets are permitted.

Category 24: Handbell Solo

1. A student will perform one selection or medley within 8 minutes.
2. A student will not be required to memorize the selection for competition.

Category 25: Organ Solo

1. A student will perform one selection or medley within 8 minutes.
2. A student will not be required to memorize the selection for competition.
3. A page turner will be permitted to stand by the organist to assist in turning pages.
4. Repertoire is limited to sacred and classical selections.

Category 26: Recorder Solo

1. A student will perform one selection or medley within 8 minutes.
2. A student is required to memorize the selection for competition.

Category 27: Hymn-Playing (Improvisation on Hymn Tunes for Congregational Singing)

1. Contestants will perform two selections from the list of 6 hymn tunes. The first selection is the contestant's choice and he/she will play that hymn without a song leader. The second selection will be the judge's choice from the list of the 6 hymn tunes; this selection will be directed by a seasoned song leader designated by the WVCEA Fine Arts Office. The judges will observe the contestant performing under the direction of the song leader.
2. Contestants may play from the hymnbook of their choice; however, they must provide two identical hymnbooks for the judges in case the harmonization is different. All the hymns listed below are available in the hymnbook Rejoice Hymns from Majesty Music (Greenville, SC; phone: 800.334.1071). Memory is not required.
3. The performance will be judged according to standard rules of hymnplaying; i.e., chord structure and chord progression, theory rules, harmonization rules, and appropriateness of style used for congregational singing.
4. Both selections must be played with an introduction.

Selections of hymns for the following five-year cycle by school year are listed below:

2026	#9-Come, Thou Almighty King* #15-Across the Lands #43-Rejoice the Lord is King (with modulation) #59-The Trees of the Field #70-Thine Be the Glory* #409-As the Deer* *Denotes JH selections
2027	#25-O Magnify the Lord #119-Great is Thy Faithfulness (with modulation) #184-The Bible Stands* #323-Christ the Lord is Risen Today #353-Victory in Jesus* #549-Like a River Glorious* *Denotes JH selections
2028	#111-And Can It Be* #239-In Christ Alone* #381-Blessed Assurance #412-A Passion for Thee #529-It Is Well with My Soul (with modulation) #680-Rejoice in the Lord* *Denotes JH selections

2029	#11-I Sing the Mighty Power of God* #27-O worship the King* #46-All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name #349-Complete in Thee* #383-The Solid Rock (with modulation) #617-I'll Fly Away*Denotes JH selections
2030	#32-Crown Him with Many Crowns (with modulation) #122-Grace Greater than Our Sin* #290-The Power of the Cross #309-There is a Fountain* #525-All That Thrills My Soul* #599-Before the Throne of God Above *Denotes JH selections

Category 28: Composition - Original

1. Every musical portion of the composition must be original (an existing text or poem may be used).
2. The composition may be for any medium.
3. The composition must have been composed since the previous year's WVCEA Competition.
4. The composition must be performed at the WVCEA Competition. (The performer(s) will not be the object of adjudication; only the composition will be judged.) You may pre-record the performance and present that at the WVCEA Competition as that also represents a live performance.
5. The composition will be judged according to standard rules of composition; i.e., part-writing rules, theory rules, instrumental and vocal ranges, chord structure and progression, appropriateness for the performance genre intended.
6. The composition must be one of the acceptable styles of music listed in the general music rules.

Category 29: Composition - Arranged

1. An existing melody and harmonization may be used.
2. The arrangement may be for any medium.
3. The arrangement must have been created since the previous year's WVCEA Competition.
4. The arrangement must be performed at the WVCEA Competition. (The performer(s) will not be the object of adjudication; only the arrangement will be judged.) You may pre-record the performance and present that at the WVCEA Competition as that also represents a live performance.
5. The arrangement will be judged according to standard rules of composition; i.e. part-writing rules, theory rules, instrumental and vocal ranges, chord structure and progression, appropriateness for the performance genre intended.
6. The arrangement must be one of the acceptable styles of music listed in the general music rules.

Category 30: Instrumental String Solo (Non-Orchestral)

1. This category is for string instruments other than violin, viola, cello, string bass and harp. Guitars, banjos, ukuleles and other non-orchestral instruments may enter.
2. Instruments may be bowed, strummed, plucked or performed in an appropriate way for the instrument. (Note: strumming a few chords repetitively is not competition worthy.)
3. Memory is not required.
4. Students will perform one selection or medley within 8 minutes.

5. Performance may be per printed music or improvisational in nature; if improvised, notate details for the judges so they can follow the general plan. Music (actual or base structure) must be presented to the judges for performance.

Example: In the Hymnplaying category (which is improvisational in nature) the judges have the actual hymn in hand but listen carefully for improvisational skills. It is not necessary to write down every note that may be a part of the improvised performance.

SELECTION OF MUSIC

Any music may be sent for approval at any time ahead of the Fine Arts Competition. Music that is pre-approved will not be disqualified for inappropriateness on the days of Competition. If you plan to have music pre-approved, it would be advantageous to do so early enough so rehearsal time will not be lost on a poor selection.

Selections will be Sacred, Spirituals, Folk, Patriotic, Classical or Semi-Classical in nature. Vocal soloists who are required to do two pieces shall perform one sacred (or Spiritual) and one classical (Semi-Classical, Patriotic or Folk are also acceptable) or art song selection. The second selection may be sacred, but must be of a classical/art song nature.

The sacred selection should be appropriate for a church service, having a clear message with a high standard but without a showy style. While the sacred selection should demonstrate a high degree of control, its primary purpose is to minister and to show the contestant's ability to communicate a sacred text for the glory of God. It is possible that the classical selection could also be sacred (example: "I know That My Redeemer Lives" from Handel's Messiah.)

The classical selection would include music from Bach, Handel, Beethoven, Brahms, etc., or an art song. The purpose of the classical piece is to demonstrate the contestant's mastery of the instrument or voice. Those younger contestants performing only one selection should choose a piece from any category above that best demonstrates their mastery of the instrument or voice.

Area Three: Speech

Category 1: Dramatic Interpretation	SH	JH	EL
Category 2: Oral Interpretation of Poetry	SH	JH	EL
Category 3: Religious Reading	SH	JH	EL
Category 4: Declamation	SH	JH	EL
Category 5: Humorous Interpretation	SH	JH	EL
Category 6: Original Persuasive Oratory	SH	X	X
Category 7: Extemporaneous Speaking	SH	X	X
Category 8: Oral Interpretation of Scripture	SH	JH	EL
Category 9: Acting	SH	JH	EL
Category 10: Readers' Theatre	SH	JH	EL
Category 11: Choric Speaking	SH	JH	EL
Category 12: Debate	SH		
<i>(State Categories only)</i>			
Category 13: Artistic Signing (ASL)	SH	JH	EL

RULES BY CATEGORY

Category 13: Artistic Signing (ASL)

1. Signing must be standard ASL (American Sign Language)
2. Artistic Signing must be
 - a. For a larger intended audience, not conversational
 - b. Expressive in nature
 - c. Paced with the recorded song or recorded spoken Word
3. Artistic Signing may be either an individual or a group (unspecified number) category. Please mark the correct category on the registration form. The category is available on all three (SH, JH & EL) levels.
4. Song selections should be prerecorded; a choir, ensemble or congregational singing or soloist are acceptable. Music recordings must conform to Fine Arts music guidelines. Please provide your own music system for playing the recording.
5. Scripture selections should be prerecorded; professional, pastoral and personal readings are acceptable.
6. Each signer must have prepared this performance since the previous Fine Arts Tournament and may not repeat his/her song or Scripture passage.
7. The signing "performance" times should be as follows: SH - 2.5 to 4 minutes; JH - 2 to 4 minutes; EL - 1.5 to 3 minutes.
8. The signer should provide each judge with a written translated script of what is being signed. This is not the exact lyrics or text of the recording, but rather the words and concepts being signed.
9. The signer should express language in his/her presentation with sufficient structural accuracy and vocabulary to communicate the concepts, symbolism and theology with reasonable ease.

AREA FOUR: Art

Category 1: Calligraphy	SH	JH	EL
Category 2: Monochromatic Drawing	SH	JH	EL
Category 3: Polychromatic Drawing	SH	JH	EL
Category 4: Watercolor	SH	JH	EL
Category 5: Oil Painting	SH	JH	EL
Category 6: Acrylic Painting	SH	JH	EL
Category 7: Sculpture	SH	JH	EL
Category 8: Garment Construction	SH	JH	EL
Category 9: Textiles	SH	JH	EL
Category 10: Crafts	SH	JH	EL
Category 11: Printmaking	SH	JH	EL
Category 12: Digital Media	SH	JH	EL
Category 13: Wood Furniture and Cabinet Making	SH	JH	EL
Category 14: Mixed Media	SH	JH	EL
Category 15: Still Life and Macro Photography	SH	JH	EL
Category 16: Landscapes and Architecture Photography	SH	JH	EL
Category 17: People and Animal Photography	SH	JH	EL
Category 18: Live Action Videography	SH	JH	EL
Category 19: Animation Videography	SH	JH	EL
<i>(State Categories only)</i>			
<i>Category 20: Team Mural Painting</i>	<i>SH</i>	<i>JH</i>	<i>EL</i>
<i>Category 21: Experimental Photography</i>	<i>SH</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>
<i>Category 22: Animation</i>	<i>SH</i>	<i>JH</i>	<i>EL</i>
<i>Category 23: Desktop Publishing</i>	<i>SH</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>
<i>Category 24: Cinema-Original Video Production</i>	<i>SH</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>
<i>Category 25: Design Construction</i>	<i>SH</i>	<i>JH</i>	<i>EL</i>
<i>Category 26: Scratch Art</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>EL</i>

Category 20: Team Mural Painting

1. Topics for the following five-year cycle by school year are listed below. Each school entry must relate to the topic for that school year.

2026: God's Love
 2027: The Church
 2028: New Life
 2029: A Miracle
 2030: A Parable

2. Definition: a group of 3 or more students working together to create a mural painting.
3. Painting should be painted on appropriate material, such as canvas, and appropriate paints should be used (air brush and spray techniques are acceptable). Murals must be dry and should not be "tacky".
4. Mural size must be at least 3-feet x 3-feet, but no larger than 6-feet in height and 12- feet in width.

5. Murals must be portable, and not permanently attached to the property.
6. Murals must be prepared to hang. Prepare each mural with a rod “pocket” to accommodate the rod. (Each entry is responsible to provide their own rod.)
7. Mural entries must follow the year’s theme announced by the WVCEA Office.

Category 21: Experimental Photography

1. Entries are limited to Senior High division only.
2. Includes time-lapse photography, multiple exposures, pinhole photography, and toning prints. Others types of experimental photography may be entered with permission of the WVCEA competition office.
3. Photos cannot be computer enhanced.
4. Entries must include the film negative.

Category 22: Animation

Divisions: Senior High - Junior High - Elementary
(No computerized entries in Elementary division)

1. Definition: to make or represent a character to inspire or lift the spirit of others.
 - a. Includes: single cartoons, storyboards, caricatures, and computer animation/storyboards.
2. Entries must be matted (See General Rules). (Exception: computerized entries)
3. Computer generated work is permitted in all divisions. Work must be printed and matted.
4. Computerized animation:
 - a. Is limited to Senior High and Junior High divisions only.
 - b. Computerized storyboards and animation must use programs such as ImageReady or Lightwave, or seek program approval from the WVCEA Competition Office prior to submission.
 - c. Electronic files must be received by WVCEA Competition office 1 week prior to the Festival.

Definition Notes:

- a. Computer generated art is work that is created using a computer, but printed and displayed as traditional art.
- b. A computerized entry is the creation artwork needing an electronic file to ‘animate’ the work. Computerized artwork needs to be ‘moving’, and therefore cannot be displayed as printed work.

Category 23: Desktop Publishing

1. Entries limited to Senior High Division only. Note guidelines for computer generated art.
2. Themes for the following five-year cycle by school are listed below. Each entry must follow the designated theme for that school year.

2026: Senior Trip for 2026
2027: The WVCEA Fine Arts Competition
2028: Life in West Virginia
2029: A Missions Trip
2030: The Olympics
3. Definition: designing of brochures, programs, flyers, advertisements, business cards or PowerPoint presentation for the purpose of promoting a company, event, or product.
4. Entries must follow the year's theme(s) announced/published by the WVCEA Competition Office.
5. Projects which are designed to be printed (brochures, programs, advertisements, etc.) must be submitted in print form. Color copies are required (exception when entry is designed as a black& white copy only). Printouts should be done on inkjet or laser printers, printed on appropriate stock, and printed 2-sided if applicable for the project.
6. The student is not required to compose all text within the project. Textual content will not be judged, but care should be taken to insure no blatant grammar or spelling errors are present.
7. Students must do design and layout. No use of pre-designed layouts, templates, wizards, etc. may be used.
8. A thumb drive must be submitted with the artwork. The thumb drive must be available to be opened in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Publisher, Microsoft PowerPoint, Adobe PageMaker, Adobe InDesign, Adobe PhotoShop, or Corel Draw 8. The thumb drive must be clearly labeled with the contestant's name, file name, and school.
9. "Stock" clip art, graphics, and photos may be used with original artist permission or if permitted under license agreement. Written permission, copy of license agreement, and/or other permission granting documenta-tion must be included with the entry (this includes program clip art galleries, Afreeware@, Ashareware@, public domain, and custom designs/ logos).
10. Entries will be judged on layout, design and creativity.
11. Entries should be mounted or displayed attractively in a binder or portfolio, as an artist would present to a client. (2-sided entries must submit printout 2-sided, but may also include printout of pages separately.)

Category 24: Cinema-Original Video Production

1. Themes for the following five-year cycle by school year are listed. Each entry must follow the designated theme for that school year.

2026: Thankfulness
2027: Excellence in Christian Teens
2028: Making a Difference
2029: A dramatized short story
2030: Illustrated Scripture

2. Every portion of the video must be original in content and design (an existing script may be used and the music may be of prerecorded quality). All copyrights and documentation of public domain materials must be observed.
3. Judging will be based on all the phases of motion pictures and video productions, including directing, editing, camera work, sound and lighting.
4. The music portion of the video must be within the acceptable styles of music listed in the general music rules.
5. The intent and message of the video must be within the acceptable guidelines listed in the general art rules.
6. All production work must have been done since the last WVCEA Fine Arts Competition.
7. The cinema category will be considered a group category. There is no limit to the number of persons involved in the production of this video; however, each person must register his/her name in the WVCEA Fine Arts Registration. Individuals seen in the production are not necessarily considered to be a part of the team.
8. Each entry must have a completed "Artist's Idea Statement" which gives the source of his idea and explains briefly how he developed his art work from the idea.
9. The time limit for the Cinema projects is from 5-10 minutes.
10. The Cinema projects may be submitted as a link to a streaming version of the project (youtube, vimeo, etc.) and emailed to kimwiebe@wvcea.org
11. A signed letter of consent must be included for each recognizable person seen in this production.
12. Cinema projects must have the disk/video clearly labeled with the title of the production, its running time, and the school's name.

Category 25: Design Construction

1. Definition: to design and construct an object of your own imagination using various type(s) of building materials.
2. Elementary students may design and construct using Popsicle sticks, matches, Legos, building blocks, etc.
3. Junior High students may design and construct using pieces from Erector Sets or similar design and construction materials.
4. Senior High students may design and construct in the areas of architecture, engineering, and robotics using any material(s) that is/are appropriate to complete the object or to complete a professional miniature replica of a life-size object (such as a bridge or building).
5. Each entry must be the original creation of the participation alone. No kits, model diagrams or existing blue prints may be used. Participants may receive advice or instruction.
6. Each entry must have been created since the last WVCEA Fine Arts Competition.
7. If the object is stationary, please attach it to a base to avoid any kind of damage when transporting it to competition and during judging and display time.
8. Each student must sign the "Statement of Originality" on the art judging form.
9. Each entry must have a completed "Artist's Idea Statement" which gives the source of his idea and explains briefly how he developed his project from the idea.
10. Senior High participants must also include a folder containing the created diagram(s) or blueprint(s) of the construction.

Category 26: Scratch Art

1. Definition: to create a picture by scratching off a top layer of color allowing the underneath layer of color to become the artistic image.
2. This category is limited to Elementary contestants
3. Scratch art may be done in multicolor or in black/white pallets
4. Each entry must have been created since the last WVCEA Fine Arts Competition.
5. Each entry must be the original creation of the participation alone. No kits, model diagrams or existing blue prints may be used. Participants may receive advice or instruction.
6. Each student must sign the "Statement of Originality" on the art judging form.
7. Each entry must have a completed "Artist's Idea Statement" which gives the source of his idea and explains briefly how he developed his project from the idea.
8. The minimum size is a 7" x 10".

AREA FIVE: Academics

	Category 1: Old Testament Bible Knowledge	SH	JH	EL
	Category 2: New Testament Bible Knowledge	SH	JH	EL
	Category 3: English	SH	JH	EL
	Category 4: Algebra	SH	X	X
	Category 5: Geometry	SH	X	X
	Category 6: Advanced Mathematics	SH	X	X
	Category 7: Math	X	JH	EL
	Category 8: Biology	SH	X	X
	Category 9: Chemistry	SH	X	X
	Category 10: Physics	X	JH	EL
	Category 11: Science	SH	X	X
	Category 12: World History/Geography	SH	X	X
	Category 13: U.S. History/Geography	X	JH	EL
	Category 14: Geography/History	SH	X	X
	Category 15: Accounting	SH	X	X
	Category 16: Home Economics	SH	JH	EL
	Category 17: Political Science/Economics	SH	X	X
	Category 18: Music Theory	SH	X	X
	Category 19: Spanish			
DIVISION 2:				
	SPELLING	SH	JH	EL
	Category 20: Spelling			
DIVISION 3:				
	COMPOSITION	SH	JH	EL
	Category 21: Creative Writing: Poetry	SH	JH	EL
	Category 22: Expository Writing: Essay			
DIVISION 4:				
	SCIENCE FAIR	SH	JH	X
	Category 23: Science Fair: Biological Sciences	SH	X	X
	Category 24: Science Fair: Physical Sciences	X	JH	EL
	Social Studies Fair			
DIVISION 1:	<i>(State Categories only)</i>	SH	JH	
	Category 25: Microsoft Office	SH	X	
	Category 26: Human Anatomy			
DIVISION 5:		SH	JH	EL
	Category 27: Chess			

Social Studies Fair: Please note the following:

- Go to www.wvssfair.com. This will take you to the WV Dept. of Education
- Under “Student” tab, you will find the following information:

Division and Categories

Category Descriptions

Rules and Regulations

Visit the Archive

- Please note that the following rules are not applicable to WVCEA; Nos. 1, 3, 12, 16, 19, 21, 22 & 23
- WVCEA Divisions are Division I: Grades 4-6, and Division II: Grades 7-9. Also please note that *projects may be done by individuals only and not in pairs for WVCEA.*

Coordinators will supply the actual judging form for the student (which will be what you see as the Judges' Score Card for 2027). The student must complete the 2027 Official Abstract and have it with the project on display.

Category 22: Microsoft Office

1. The test will cover computer applications and terms
2. Questions will cover applications in Microsoft Office

Category 23: Human Anatomy

1. The test will include questions from the major systems of the human body.
2. Questions will be from standard High School Anatomy and Physiology textbooks

Category 24: Chess

Chess Rules and Regulations: see document below

Chess Tournament Guide

For Parents with Students Entering WVCEA Fine Arts Chess Competition

Congratulations! Welcome to the WVCEA Fine Arts Chess Competition. Your child knows the rules of chess and is confident enough to enter a tournament. This will be the first tournament for many of the players, and each tournament is a learning experience for everyone. This guide is designed to answer the most common questions and prepare parents for the tournament.

Parents/Coaches should expect to console their children/students when they lose and encourage good sportsmanship regardless of the results. Children play chess best when they know that their primary aim is to play their best, not necessarily to win. The ultimate winners of every event are the players who keep their Christian testimony and do not get too low after a defeat, or too high after a win.

A Swiss-System Tournament

Most chess tournaments are known as “Swiss-System” events. This means that players are paired against others with similar scores. The pairing system is quite complicated, ensuring among other things that ‘teammates’ from the same school do not meet until the final round, if possible. At the WVCEA Fine Arts Chess Tournament the ‘Tournament Director’ will be responsible for the pairings each round.

In short, the Swiss-System operates by ordering the players by rating, and pairing the top player with the player just under the half-way mark. The second player is paired against the next player under the opponent of the top player, and so forth. In unrated tournaments, the first round will be by draw and will as best is able, allot consecutive rounds according to results, boards and piece colors.

Players earn one point for winning, a half point for drawing. In each round after the first round, the players compete with others who have the same numbers of points. Players never compete against the same opponent twice in a tournament, and efforts are made to alternate the color of the pieces the player uses each round.

Pairings for the next round will be posted within established time parameters of the conclusion of the last game, each round. Nobody is eliminated in a Swiss-System tournament. All players are expected to compete all the way through the tournament.

Byes

A player with a bye in a particular round does not play that round. There are two types of byes. When a tournament has an odd number of players, the bottom player does not play one round. Instead, that player is awarded a “full-point bye”, meaning that the player receives a point, as if they won a game. A player receiving a full-point bye will see “See TD” written across their name on the pairing sheet. No player receives more than one bye per tournament.

Players unable to be at the tournament for a certain round may request a “half-point bye”. This second type of bye awards a player the same score as would a draw. In most tournaments, half-point byes must be requested before the player begins to play in the event and are not available for the final round. They are most often taken in the first round, when a player cannot get to the tournament by the time it begins.

Withdrawing

We strongly discourage withdrawing from tournaments. Players who leave because they lose are missing some of the greatest benefits of the game. Learning to come back after a defeat is very important in much more than just chess. However, if an emergency arises and a player must leave, it is crucial to inform the Tournament Director that the player will not attend the next round. It is unfair to the others in the tournament to leave without telling the director, as it means that at least one other player will not get to play a game.

Tie-breaks

In the WVCEA Fine Arts Chess Tournament, a pre-determined number of top prizes (usually plaques or trophies) are awarded at the end. In a four-round tournament (which is most common) there will sometimes be ties. Head-to-head will be the determining factor in a two-way tie only. With more than two tied for a particular placement, we use a tie-break system that determines the strength of the players' competition by counting the number of points the opponents earned. (Ratings are irrelevant to tie-breaks.) We acknowledge that this system, like every other, is not completely "fair", but we have to break the ties somehow and this is the method used in nearly all chess tournaments.

The Awards Ceremony

Similarly, we hope that all players will be able to attend the Awards Ceremony. Awards will be allocated for the top three spots in each section (Grades 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12). Any player that wishes to 'play up' a section for better competition will be allowed to do so, but MUST inform the Tournament Director BEFORE registration at the tournament. 9th Graders in particular will have the option to play in the high school portion of the tournament (held at Appalachian Bible College).

The Tournament Director

The Tournament Director (TD) makes the pairings each round and settles any sort of dispute that arises during a game. TDs rule on claims of time forfeiture and claims of draw. TDs have the authority to punish bad behavior or other rule violations by adding or subtracting time from a player, or by forfeiting a game.

Parents

In general, parents and coaches are required to stay out of the room where the children are playing. However, parents may offer encouragement and consolation between rounds, and some provide help analyzing the games their kids played. Children are not well served by having parents argue about such things as pairings or rulings of the TD. Such arguments delay the entire tournament, which goes on long enough as it is. A four-round tournament with e G/30 time control will last more than 5 hours, sometimes as long as 6 ½ hours, including registration and breaks.

Scholastic Chess Leagues, Ratings and the USCF

We encourage players who want to improve to play against the strongest competition available. Players learn much more by losing than by winning. Several of these are available in certain areas of the state. Please contact the Tournament Director for more information or to locate the nearest league for our students.

Many of the chess tournaments in West Virginia, and most tournaments elsewhere, are sanctioned by the US Chess Federation (USCF). Nearly always, membership in the USCF is required in order to participate (this does not apply to the WVCEA Chess Tournament). Annual membership dues for players vary in age but range from \$17 to \$49. The USCF publishes two magazines, *Chess Life*, a monthly magazine geared towards adult players, and *Chess Life for Kids*, a magazine for elementary school students. Membership in the USCF may be purchased at any time at www.uschess.org.

The USCF developed, and is constantly modifying, a sophisticated rating system for its members. By playing in tournaments, players earn a rating, which rises each time a player wins, and falls each time a player loses. The rating of the opponent is the major component of the formula.

Children tend to place great value in their ratings. Players often play considerably below their capability when they notice that their opponent's rating is much higher or lower than their own. As a result, we make every effort to reduce the significance of a player's rating.