



Chicago North Chinese School 2008 Speech Contest: Rules and Procedures

1. Qualification for participants: All CNCS language class students officially registered for the 2008-2009 school year.
2. Age group demarcation and rules:
 - No age differentiation in the preliminary or class contest.
 - Each class holds its own preliminary speech contest.
 - Class teachers determine the ranking and recommend participants for the school-wide contest held the following week.
 - Students in the school speech contest are grouped into Participation Groups and Competition Groups.
 - Only students who have lived in a non-Chinese-speaking region/area for over three years are eligible to participate in the contest.
 - Students in the two Participation Groups are mostly from non-Mandarin speaking families and do not have any age limitation.
 - Students in the Competition Group are further divided according to their actual ages with the birthday of 11/1 as the demarcation. The breakdown is as follows:

Group	Age (years old)	Birth Date
Group 1	6 and under	On or after 11/02/01
Group 2	7 and 8	11/02/99 - 11/01/01
Group 3	9 and 10	11/02/97 - 11/01/99
Group 4	11 and 12	11/02/95 - 11/01/97
Group 5	13 and above	On or before 11/01/95
Participation Group I	No age limit	
Participation Group II	No age limit	

3. Qualifying procedures:
 - Class or preliminary contest: **10/19/2008**
 - Students with greater than 80% of proficiency in their recitation can participate in the school or final contest. The minimum requirement is the ability to recite a memorized passage.
 - A maximum of **seven** students or **50%** of total students per class are allowed in the school contest. Beyond the allowed contestants requires the recommendation of the teacher plus the approval from the Principal and the Curriculum Officer.
 - Students in PCSL, ICSL and ACSL should enter in either of the two Participation Groups. In general, PCSL students are by default in Participation Group I and ACSL students in Group II. Students from other classes will be assigned to either group based on class teachers' recommendations.
 - All non-CSL students should enter in the Competition Groups.
 - Students can request to be moved from a Participation Group to a Competition Group and vice versa with the approval of the respective class teacher and being registered for the speech contest accordingly.
 - School contest: **10/26/2008**
 - This year's speech contest will be held in two rooms, Room **1625** and Room **2545**. Before the contest, the participants will be gathered according to the name list registered for each group by a parent volunteer and led as a group to wait outside the speech contest room for the group's start time.
 - Each contest room will have assigned a parent volunteer to maintain order, monitoring the entries and exits of the room, as well as determining the ordering of contestants.
 - Only after the contestants have entered or exited the room can parents be allowed to do the same. During the contest, all should follow the directions and requests of the volunteer parent responsible for maintaining order. Parents are to occupy the back row of seats designated for them and maintain silence. Except for emergencies, no one should enter or leave the contest room during speech presentations.
 - Each contest group will have three to five judges. See Item 4 for scoring criteria. When a contestant is reciting his/her speech, a parent volunteer will be responsible for keeping time.
 - Each judge is to abide by the scoring criteria in judging the speeches. Upon recording the scores in the scoring sheet, each judge is to submit it to the parent volunteer responsible for totaling the separate scores to determine each contestant's final score. **When there are five judges, the highest and lowest rank scores will not be considered.**

- When the contest is over, the contestants would be instructed by the volunteer parent in charge of maintaining order to exit the contest room and led back to their respective classrooms. At the same time, the parent volunteer responsible for totaling the scores will verify the total scores and discuss with the judges to determine the ranking of the contestants.
- In the case of identical total scores among contestants within the same age group, the judges (not including the parent totaling the scores) will convene to determine any adjustment to the original scorings and countersign in the scoring sheets.
- Based on the total scores, each age group will have one First Place, two Second Places, and three Third Places.
- Once the ranking is determined, the parent volunteer responsible for totaling scores will collect and place all scoring sheets and the ranking sheet in an envelope that is to be brought to the Curriculum Officer for record and filing.

4. Scoring criteria:

➤ Breakdown

Proficiency of recitation-----	30%
Etiquette-----	25%
Pronunciation-----	25%
Content-----	20%
Total score-----	100%

- The speech should be less than three minutes in length. One point will be subtracted from the total score (averaged over scores from all judges) for each ten seconds over three minutes with a maximum deduction of three points for thirty seconds overtime. Any speech over three and a half minutes will be interrupted and terminated.

5. Ranking and awards:

- Ranking of each age group in the contest will be posted a week (11/02/2008) after the speech contest on the bulletin board outside the office (Room 2171).
- First, Second and Third Place finishers will each be awarded a trophy.
- Date of award presentation will be two week after the school contest on 11/09/2008.

6. Contestants representing CNCS to participate the MCLSA contest: (11/15/2008)

- Except for Participation Group, the First Place from each age group can represent CNCS in the Midwest Chinese Language School Association (MCLSA) speech contest.
- Contestants representing CNCS in the prior year at the MCLSA contest will not be eligible to represent CNCS in the current year. However, the first place winner in each age group in the current year who have won first place in MCLSA contest in the previous year can represent CNCS to enter the Demonstration Group in the MCLSA contest.
- In the case where the First Place in the school contest can not attend the MCLSA contest, the student from the same age group that was awarded the higher score of the two Second Place finishers can represent CNCS in the MCLSA contest.
- First place winners of the two Participation Groups can participate in the Open Group (non-competitive) of MCLSA contest. Participant representing CNCS in the prior year at the MCLSA contest will not be eligible to represent CNCS in the current year.
- Within three days after the school contest, the CNCS Principal will telephone the award winning contestants qualified to represent CNCS at the MCLSA contest to personally congratulate the students and request their participation at the MCLSA contest.

7. Other items of note:

- CNCS will follow the MCLSA decision this year to allow the "Participation/Open" team to adopt the multimedia approach. However, we will ask students' parents to give direct support on both software and hardware need.
- The "pair" speech team is acceptable again this year. But the "pair" speech students from participation group who gain 1st place is only eligible to attend the Open group of MCLSA speech contest.
- Inside the speech contest rooms, all cellular phones, beepers, and pagers are to be turned off to avoid interference with the contestants' performance.
- Any observing parents or contest participants who interfere or disrupt the contest with behavior of any kind will be verbally warned. After the third warning, the person will be removed from the contest room and, if a contestant, will lose the right to participate in the contest.
- In case of any emergency, please contact the duty officer in the school office (Room 2171).