Updated November 2026

MACS
Elementary Fine Arts Festival
MANUAL

PURPOSE

The MACS Elementary Invitational Fine Arts Festival is designed to give elementary students an opportunity to begin to develop fine arts skills that can be used in future ministry. The festival will provide insight from qualified judges to help young people improve their abilities in the fields of music, speech, and art. The festival will be non-competitive, with students performing for the purpose of ratings and feedback from the judges. Our goal for this festival is to glorify Christ by helping elementary young people develop their God-given talents.

PARTICIPANTS

The Festival is open to students in 4th-6th grades, both in MACS schools and other schools, churches, homeschool groups, and families. Any music/speech/art instructor is welcome to have his or her studio participate whether those students go to a MACS school or not. It is preferred that students are registered with their teacher's school, church, or homeschool group, but for exceptions, please contact the contest coordinator.

LIMITATION OF CONTESTANTS

Students are limited only in art categories. Students may enter just one art piece in each of the art categories. Students are free to enter any categories in speech and music, but are encouraged to *only enter categories where they can be fully prepared.*

CHAPERONES AND ATTENDANCE

Every school must have one chaperone for every five students in attendance. We request that these sponsors be responsible for their students throughout the day. There is no fee for sponsors to attend. Students are expected to arrive 45 minutes before their event is scheduled. There is no opening or closing program at this event.

MACS ELEMENTARY FESTIVAL DIRECTOR & COORDINATOR

The festival director & coordinator will have the final authority on the disqualification of any participant and on any exceptions to the rules.

REGISTRATION

Registration must be completed in accordance with the instructions provided by Bethany Christian School. Fees shall be determined annually, based on Festival cost. Registration forms must accompany the entry fee and should be postmarked by the deadline. All fees must be paid before a contestant is allowed to compete. No refunds are given.

SCHEDULE

The festival is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. and finish by 4:00 p.m. The schedule of the day's events will be available online several days before the festival. Students are not required to attend for the entire day, but must arrive 45 minutes before their first scheduled event. After a student has completed all scheduled events and received his evaluation, he is free to leave with an adult.

AWARDS

All students will be given a rating of I (Superior), II (Good), or III (Participant), and will be given ribbons corresponding to their ratings. This is not an event where students compete against each other, but rather strive to perform to the best of their own abilities. The judges' expectations will be based on an understanding of the capabilities of young performers. Wherever possible, judges will also give an oral critique, including encouragement and suggestions on how to improve. At the discretion of the art judges, some "Best in Show" ribbons may also be awarded.

MUSIC GUIDELINES

Music for this contest may be either sacred or classical. Music in a contemporary, pop, jazz, or rock style is not acceptable. There is no official music check for this event. However, if you are unsure of any piece of music, please contact the event coordinator and they will check it for you. Any music performed that is not in keeping with our music guidelines will result in the

student being unable to receive a rating or ribbon for the event. Only original copies of music are allowed. Any questions concerning photocopied music should be directed to us before the festival.

MEALS

Students and sponsors may pre-purchase lunches for $8.00 with their registrations, or for $10.00 if purchased on the day of the event. The menu will be released with the registration information.

DRESS AND CONDUCT GUIDELINES

The MACS Elementary Fine Arts Festival desires to maintain excellent standards of dress and conduct. All participants are expected to be respectful to all authority and to avoid any disruptive behavior. Sponsors and chaperones are to supervise their students at all times. Male participants are asked to wear dress pants and dress shirts. Female participants are asked to wear modest knee-length skirts or dresses, and tops that are not excessively tight or low-cut.

RULES BY CATEGORY - SPEECH

ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY

- A poem of your choosing
- At least 10 lines, no more than a page
- Must be memorized
- One typed copy or original text provided for the judge
- A short introduction of the performer and poem is appropriate: Name and Title of Piece
- Critique based on 1) memory, 2) projection, 3) clarity, 4) use of body/gestures, 5) facial expression, 6) build to a clear climax, 7) communication

ORAL COMMUNICATION/INTERPRETATION OF SCRIPTURE

- A passage of 5-15 verses
- From any book of the Bible, King James Version
- Must be memorized
- No copy necessary for the judge
- A short introduction of the performer and passage is appropriate: Name and Title of Piece
- Critique based on 1) memory, 2) projection, 3) clarity, 4) use of body/gestures, 5) facial expression, 6) build to a clear climax, 7) communication
- Examples:
    - Matt. 4:1-11 (Satan tempting Jesus in the Wilderness)
    - Matt. 6:9-13 (The Lord's Prayer)
    - Gen. 6:7-18 (God commands Noah to build the Ark

- Ex. 32:1-14 (The Golden Calf)
- Judges 14:12-19 (Samson's Riddle is Double-crossed)
- 1 Sam. 16:4-13 (Samuel anoints David king)

ORAL READING

- An excerpt from any appropriate piece of children's literature, no more than 4 minutes long
- Should not be memorized
- No copy necessary for the judge
- Should be read with fluency and expression
- A short introduction of the performer and passage is appropriate: Name and Title of Piece
- Critique based on 1) projection, 2) clarity, 3) use of body/gestures, 4) facial expression, 5) build to a clear climax, 6) communication, 7) book control (If reading from a picture book, displaying the illustrations for the audience to see clearly. If reading from a chapter book, holding the book/ script in a manner that allows you to make eye contact with the audience and not have the book itself be distracting.)

RULES BY CATEGORY – INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

GENERAL RULES

- No memory required
- Only original music is acceptable for performing, no photocopies
- One copy or original should be provided for the judge if available
- No minimum length; maximum length, 5 minutes
- Accompaniment is optional; only live accompanist accepted
- Performer should introduce himself and the title of his piece
- Please review music guidelines as a reminder of what is acceptable music for this Festival

CATEGORIES AVAILABLE

INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

Standard orchestral instruments, harp, guitar, recorder, percussion (snare drum or mallet instrument)

SMALL INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE (2-9)

LARGE INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE (10 and up)

PIANO SOLO

PIANO ENSEMBLE (1 or 2 pianos available)

RULES BY CATEGORY – VOCAL

GENERAL RULES

- Memory is required
- Live accompanist is required; he or she must use original music
- One copy or original should be provided for the judge if available
- Performer should introduce himself and the title of his piece
- Please review music guidelines as a reminder of what is acceptable music for this Festival

CATEGORIES AVAILABLE

VOCAL SOLO

SMALL VOCAL ENSEMBLE (2-9)

LARGE VOCAL ENSEMBLE (10 AND UP)

RULES BY CATEGORY – ART

GENERAL RULES

- Art MUST be the original work of the student. It should not be a copy of a photograph or someone else's art. Strive for originality!
- MINIMAL guidance and assistance from adults or teachers should be given.
- Artwork should be appropriate to a Christian audience in order to be adjudicated and displayed.
- Artwork must be submitted no later than 9:00 a.m. on the day of the festival or arrangements may be made to drop off the artwork earlier in the week.
- Artwork may be no larger than 18"x18", with three-dimensional pieces being no larger than 18"x18"x18".
- All two-dimensional flatwork MUST be matted or mounted. A simple piece of black paper may be used. Artwork done on canvas will not require matte board or paper.
- Artwork will be on display during the festival once adjudication is complete, and may be collected at the end of the festival, as indicated by the judges.
- Each art piece must be accompanied by an "Art Registration Form". These forms are available along with the other registration materials.

CATEGORY 1: CALLIGRAPHY

- Each entry should either display the entire alphabet, or the content should be so extensive as to indicate a complete mastery of the particular style chosen.
- Embellishments made with other mediums with the intent to enhance the work of art is permissible.
- The artwork may be rendered in modern or traditional style calligraphy.
- Traditional pen and nibs or modern brush pens may be used.
- **<u>Do not use</u> blunt felt-tip pens, such as markers or sharpies.**
- Submitted artwork **<u>MUST be mounted or matted using either, matte board or a piece of black paper.</u>**

CATEGORY 2: CRAFT

- Store-bought kits, or commercially-produced plans are acceptable.
- **The original plan <u>MUST</u> accompany the project.**
- **<u>Free-standing, 3-dimensional projects made from kits will be categorized under craft rather than sculpture.</u>**
- Suggested crafts: crochet, knitting, macrame, sewing, jewelry making,
  weaving, rug hooking, perler beads, embroidery, string art, etc.

CATEGORY 3: DRAWING

- Drawings submitted may be either monochromatic or polychromatic.
- Students may use ink, pencil, colored pencils, charcoal, chalk pastels or markers.
- Submitted artwork **MUST be mounted or matted using either, matte board or a piece of black paper.**

CATEGORY 4: MIXED MEDIA

- Mixed media includes two or three-dimensional artwork, and may combine multiple materials or mediums such as paint, fabric, paper, wood, graphite, pen, pencil, found objects, etc..
- Common forms of mixed media include collages and assemblages.
- Mixed media created on paper **MUST be matted or mounted using either matte board or a piece of black paper.**

CATEGORY 5: PAINTING

- Submitted artwork may include oil, acrylic, or any water-based medium, such as watercolor, gouache, or tempera. Use of airbrush is permitted.
- Water-based mediums used must be rendered on watercolor paper.

- Acceptable supports for acrylic or oil include, but are not limited to, stretched, board, or gallery-wrapped canvases, or wood.
- When submitting acrylic or oil paintings, artists should seek to cover the entire canvas, including the sides with paint, as leaving exposed raw canvas can make it look unfinished.
- Work **MUST** be completely dry before it is submitted.

CATEGORY 6: PRINTMAKING

- Printmaking is an art form that involves transferring an image from a template, or matrix onto a surface. With this in mind, the original printing surface **MUST** be presented with the artwork.
- Acceptable printmaking techniques include, but are not limited to, linocut, woodcut, etching, engraving, lithography, screenprint, and collograph.

CATEGORY 7: SCULPTURE

- Sculpture is the art of carving, modeling, assembling, or casting.
- Sculpture is a three-dimensional form, either free-standing, or low-relief, and may be realistic or abstract.
- Typically sculptures are made from a single material… acceptable materials include, but are not limited to

the following: wood, plaster, stone, metal, wax, clay (both fired and unfired), papier-mâché, balsa, foam, modeling clay, model magic, and air-dry clay.

- Works from molds are acceptable if the student has created the mold and has poured the form himself. **(Original mold must be presented with the finished artwork.)**
- Students should seek to present artwork that is made completely by them. Avoid including store-bought items such as toys, flowers, plants, etc..
- For display purposes sculptures must be attached to, or placed on a base. This "base" may simply be a tile, or piece of wood.

CATEGORY 8: PHOTOGRAPHY

- Photographs may be a black & white or color print.
- The minimum size of photographs is 5x7
- Artists should **NOT** use **pre-set filters** to alter their photographs.
- All photographs **MUST be matted or mounted using either matte board or a piece of black paper.**