

2025



FCAA
FINE ARTS
COMPETITION



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2025 FCAA FINE ARTS MANUAL

Contact Information

Contact by email is preferred to Mrs. Cathy Stewart or Miss Joy Jarriel at fcaafinearts@yahoo.com. So that you will be assured your email was received, a reply will always be given. If you need to talk or text personally, please text Miss Joy first and she will text or call you back. Her number is (863) 697-8681. If there is an emergency and you cannot get in touch with Miss Joy, you may reach Mrs. Cathy at (863) 447-1045.

History of the Competition

The Florida Christian Activities Association was started by Dr. John Kager in the early 1980's. It was Dr. Kager's intention that the Association sponsor sporting events, as well as a fine arts competition. Until recently, however, the organization of sports competition was the only function of the FCAA. The desire to include a fine arts competition in the FCAA schedule of activities was furthered by President Dr. David Bedell when a science fair was begun in April 2003. A yearly science fair was held at Landmark Baptist College in Haines City, Florida, through April 2006. It was then decided to move the competition to Fort Myers and expand it to include speech, music, art, spelling, Bible quizzing, and various other academic activities. The year 2007 was the first time an "Academic Fair" or Fine Arts Competition had been sponsored by the FCAA. The competition was moved to Haines City in 2012.

Purpose of the Competition

The primary goal of the FCAA Fine Arts Competition is to honor the Lord Jesus Christ, and to encourage students to develop their God-given talents for use in the local church. Believing in the importance of Christian education, the FCAA seeks to encourage students to achieve spiritual and academic excellence. It is also the goal of the FCAA to promote Christian fellowship among students, their families, and staff members.

Eligibility

Participation in the FCAA Fine Arts Competition is limited to Christian schools and home school organizations that believe in salvation by grace through faith. Good works, such as baptism, have no part in the salvation experience. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit provides the basis of Christian fellowship. Students in grades six through twelve may participate. Fifth graders may participate only in group events, such as speaking and music.

Location

The intersection of Interstate 4 and Highway 27 is the transportation center of Central Florida. Landmark Baptist Church is located 11 miles south of this center. From the intersection of I-4 and Highway 27, go 9 miles south on Highway 27 and 2 miles east on Highway 17/92 (Hinson Avenue).

Physical Address: Landmark Baptist Church, 2020 Hinson Avenue, Haines City, Florida 33844

Accommodations

A Comfort Inn and the Holiday Inn are located right off Interstate 4 at Highway 27. These hotels are ten miles north of Haines City. Both of these hotels are very nice, and many schools have used them in the past. Lodging may also be found in the nearby city of Winter Haven. Schools must make their own arrangements for lodging.

The FCAA urges all schools to observe the highest standards of Christian conduct. Students should be well-supervised at all times. Students should dress modestly when outside their hotel rooms. Mixed swimming (male and female) is incompatible with the conservative values espoused by the FCAA. An adult should inspect each room before leaving the motel and leave a tip for the cleaning staff.

Local Attractions:

Central Florida is the “attraction capital” of the world! The Posner Park shopping complex is located 20 minutes from Landmark Baptist Church.

Legoland is Polk County’s newest attraction. It is located just 20 minutes from Landmark Baptist Church.

Sea World also has a special educational group rate available. Students participating in the group rate will spend the first hour of their day on an educational tour and the rest of the day is theirs to play. Sea World requires reservations and has limited availability for these special educational rates.

Important Dates

In order to enable schools to schedule their participation year after year, the FCAA Fine Arts competition will usually be held on the last Thursday and Friday in the month of April – this year, due to a scheduling conflict, the 2025 competition will be held the first Thursday and Friday in the month of May.

***MUSIC APPROVAL—Music can be submitted for approval from January 1st - January 31st.**

***January 1st:** Registration open!

***January 31st (Friday):** Deadline for any music approval that is not on the pre-approved list. Please remember that for all musical performances, instrumental music needs to be approved, as well as the vocal music. Any **unpublished** speech selections must be approved by this date as well. **After this date, ONLY MUSIC ON THE APPROVED LIST OR PUBLISHED SPEECHES MAY BE USED.**

***March 14, 2025 (Friday):** Early Registration deadline--\$40.00 per student for up to 7 categories entered. Registration forms and checks must be postmarked by this date in order to get the \$5.00 discount. Registration forms must be received by email at fcaafinearts@yahoo.com.

***March 28, 2025 (Friday):** Final Registration deadline--\$50.00 per student for up to 7 categories entered. No additions may be added after this date. T-shirt pre-orders and any Ad forms must be submitted and paid by this date as well.

***May 1-2, 2025** (Thursday & Friday): Fine Arts Competition in Haines City.

Tentative Schedule:

Note: The schedule below may change after registrations are received.

Thursday

9:00 a.m. Registration and drop-off of Art/Photography/Science Fair entries
9:45 a.m. Chapel
11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Music Competitions, Science Fair Interviews, Preaching,
(Cafeteria will not be open for viewing of art, photography, or science fair entries on
Thursday as judges will be judging the entries.)

Friday

9:00 a.m. Devotions
10:00 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Speech Events, Art/Photography/Science Fair open for viewing, Spelling Bees, Bible Quiz
Challenge
5:30 p.m. AWARDS CEREMONY

Snack Bar will be open daily.

Fees

The non-refundable registration fee per student is \$50. There will be a discount of \$10 per student given to schools that email their registration form and mail their check by March 8, 2025. PLEASE NOTE: The \$50 fee is for entry in up to 7 categories. Cost per category over 7 will be \$3.00. **IMPORTANT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEARS: Art and photography entries will now count toward a participant's 7 categories.** (Academic testing, creative writing, and Bible Quiz Team do NOT count toward a participant's 7 categories.) Because of the growth that has been seen in the number of participants, we have had to limit the number of categories for scheduling purposes. The funds raised by these fees are used to pay judges and to purchase awards. **The registration fee is due with the registration form. Registration fees are not transferable to other competition costs (i.e. T-shirts, etc.). Please email registration forms to fcaafinearts@yahoo.com and mail checks to the following address. Please make the check payable to FCAA. (Do NOT add the word Fine Arts in the name portion of the check, but you can place it in the memo portion.)**

FCAA

c/o Mrs. Cathy Stewart
1397 SW 18th Terrace
Okeechobee, FL 34974

Divisions

For most areas of competition, students will be divided according to those who are in grades 6th – 8th and those who are in grades 9th – 12th. If there is only a single entrant for a competition, the student will be judged alone or combined with a similar category. If a category is split by individual grades (such as the Science Fair) and does not have at least two students entered in each grade level then grade levels may be combined.

Student Behavior

- The audience at any competitive event should be polite and respectful. Clapping is acceptable, but cheering, screaming, and whistling are not acceptable behaviors.
- Boys and girls should maintain at least six inches of separation at all times. Couples may not pair off and go to isolated areas.
- Students may not leave the campus of the Landmark Baptist Church without being accompanied by their parents or faculty chaperones.
- Students may not have headphones or earbuds of any kind, radios, video games, secular books or magazines. Cell phones must be turned off and concealed in book bags or purses.
- Landmark Baptist Church has guest wifi. This should never be accessed by the students.

Awards

As we attempt to increase the level of competition, all awards will be given according to the point system that is used on the judging forms. Just because there may be only one or two students entered into a category does not mean that they automatically will receive 1st or 2nd place.

Participants must earn at least 60 points to place 3rd in a category. They must earn at least 70 points to place 2nd and at least 80 points to place 1st.

Dress Code

General Note about the Dress Code: The FCAA Fine Arts Competition is a “dress-up” affair. Students should wear their best “Sunday clothes.” The maintaining of modesty is a high priority. ***Note: Students will not be permitted to perform if they are in violation of the dress code. Points will be deducted if they are not dressed for the occasion.**

Girls/Women

All lady contestants must wear loose-fitting clothing. Pants are not permitted.

All students and faculty sponsors must wear dresses or skirts that cover the knee when standing, sitting, and walking.

Please make sure that dresses and skirts are long enough, especially as many of the girls will be up on the platform, which makes the dresses look shorter than they are. We do not want any of our judges to feel uncomfortable because of dress code issues. *Any girls that are performing sitting down must wear mid-calf or floor length dresses/skirts.*

Denim material is not permitted. Slits must be pinned or sewn so the opening is at the bottom of the knee. Proper undergarments should be worn and no part should be visible.

All dresses must have sleeves and may not be low-cut (no lower than three fingers down from the hollow of the neck). Cap (partial) sleeves are not permitted. Spaghetti-strap dresses or sundresses are not permitted unless a blouse is worn underneath. Sheer material/see-through lace/clinging material is not permitted.

All students should wear dress shoes. Sneakers and flip flops are not permitted.

Excessive jewelry, tattoos, odd jewelry, and toe jewelry are not permitted.

Boys/Men

All students and faculty sponsors must wear a collared shirt and a tie. Coats are not required but are encouraged. All shirts must be tucked in.

All students and faculty sponsors must wear long pants. Shorts are not permitted. A belt is required for all pants with loops. Blue jeans and low-riders are not permitted. Tight-fitting or "skinny" pants are not permitted.

All students are required to wear dress shoes. Sneakers and flip flops are not permitted.

Hair must be short and must not come over the ears or eyebrows. It must be tapered on the side and back. Sideburns may come no lower than the middle of the ear. No fad hair styles, such as dyed hair or corn rows are permitted. Students may not have facial hair. Male sponsors may have facial hair.

Male students and faculty sponsors may not wear necklaces, earrings, tattoos, or bracelets. One ring and one watch will be permitted.

Note: Students, family members, and faculty sponsors should come on the Landmark Baptist Church campus in proper attire. Each school principal is responsible for the dress of parents and friends of the students. While parents and friends are not held to the same standards as students and faculty, all parents and friends should dress conservatively. Any spectator wearing shorts or revealing clothing will be asked to leave.

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LIST OF COMPETITIVE EVENTS

Note 1: Grades 6-8 (Jr. High) and Grades 9-12 (Sr. High) are the two divisions.

Note 2: Descriptions of each event follows this section.

SPEECH

Memorized Categories

Category 1: Dramatic/Scripture Interpretation (3-6 minutes)	2 entries for each division
Dramatic Monologue	
Category 2: Humorous Interpretation (3-6 minutes)	2 entries for each division
Category 3: Poetry (3-6 minutes)	2 entries for each division
Category 4: Duet Acting (5-12 minutes)	2 entries for each division
Category 5: Skit Acting (4-10 minutes)	1 entry per school

Non-Memorized Categories

Category 1: Dramatic Reading/Declamation (3-6 minutes)	2 entries for each division
Category 2: Humorous Reading/ Monologue (3-6 minutes)	2 entries for each division
Category 3: Bible Lesson (4-8 minutes)	2 entries for each division
Category 4: Preaching (5-10 minutes)	Unlimited entries for each division *Change from previous years*
Category 5: Puppet Show (4-8 minutes)	1 entry per school
Category 6: Reader's Theatre (4-10 minutes)	1 entry per school
Category 7: Original Persuasive (3-6 minutes)	2 entries for each division

MUSIC

Minimum time for all music entries is 1 minute for Jr. High and 1½ minutes for Sr. High.

Note 1: Drums and electric guitars will not be permitted.

Note 2: Musical selections are not limited to sacred texts, but should not be contrary to Scripture.

Vocal: Memorization is required.

Category 1: Male Solo (5 minutes for 1 song)	3 entries for each division
Category 2: Female Solo (5 minutes for 1 song)	3 entries for each division
Category 3: Small Group - 2-4 members (5 minutes for one song)	2 entries for each division
Category 4: Ensemble – 5-11 members (5 minutes for one song)	1 entry for each division
Category 5: Large Choir - 12 or more members (10 min. for up to 2 songs of contrasting styles)	1 entry for each division

Instrumental: Memorization is only required for solo pieces.

Category 6: Sacred Piano Solo (5 minutes for 1 song)	2 entries for each division
Category 7: Classical Piano Solo (8 minutes for 1 song)	2 entries for each division
Category 8: Piano Duet (5 minutes for 1 song)	2 entries for each division
Category 9: String (5 minutes for 1 song)	2 entries for each division

Category 10: Wind (5 minutes for 1 song)	2 entries for each division
Category 11: Mixed instrumental groups (5 minutes for 1 song)	2 entries for each division

SPELLING BEE

Each school may enter two students per division.

VISUAL ARTS

Category 1: Monochromatic Drawing	2 entries for each division
Category 2: Polychromatic Drawing	2 entries for each division
Category 3: Watercolor	2 entries for each division
Category 4: Oil Painting	2 entries for each division
Category 5: Acrylic Painting	2 entries for each division
Category 6: Sculpture	2 entries for each division
Category 7: Crafts	2 entries for each division
Category 8: Textiles	2 entries for each division
Category 9: Black and White Photography	2 entries for each division
Category 10: Still Life Color Photography	2 entries for each division
Category 11: People & Animal Color Photography	2 entries for each division
Category 12: Landscape/Nature Color Photo	2 entries for each division
Category 13: Architecture/Design Color Photography	2 entries for each division
Category 14: Digital Media	2 entries for each division
Category 15: Photo Essay	2 entries for each division

CREATIVE WRITING

Each school may enter up to five of its top students in each division. This competition will take place at the schools. This is usually done in February or March before the competition. Each school's sponsor will be contacted with further information regarding the time frame.

SCIENCE FAIR

Each school may enter two students from each grade level: for example, two students for grade six, two students for grade seven, and so on.

BIBLE QUIZ TEAM

Each school may enter one Bible Quiz Team. A team must have a minimum of two members and a maximum of five members. The challenge for 2025 will be over 1 Samuel 1-10 .

ACADEMIC TESTING

Each school may enter up to five of its top students for each test in each division. (For example, five students from a school may take the middle school history test and five students may take the high school history test.) Academic testing will also take place at the schools before the competition.

GENERAL RULES - CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

SPEECH--General Rules

1. All material should be of high quality and good taste. Entries are not required to be of a sacred nature, but they must not contain anything offensive or worldly. The following shall not be accepted:
 - Entries which reflect anti-Biblical themes, content, and/or word usage (including profanity, ungodly language, sacrilegious language, off-color language, or suggestive language).
 - Entries which contain sensuality, humanism, elements of the occult, or worldliness.
 - Entries which present characters under the influence of alcohol or other drugs for the purpose of creating humor.
2. All participants **are required** to provide linkage to the Bible and to Christ (Form A). All Scripture references must come from the King James Version of the Bible. Please email the FCAA office (bedell@desoto.net) if you have trouble finding the required linkages. A copy of this form (Form A) must be included with the judge forms.
3. Each participant must present 3 judge forms with the top portion filled out completely, 1 linkage to the Bible and Christ form filled out completely, and 3 typewritten copies of the selection to the judges prior to the performance. Please **paper clip** each judge form to a copy of the selection. Do NOT staple them together.

Any participant who does not have the judge form, linkage form, or required copies can be disqualified from the competition. Please do not use sheet protectors to hold the judge forms.

4. Participants may NOT perform the same selection in two consecutive years. Students from the same school should not perform the same selection in the same year.
5. Most selections must be published works that are appropriate. Students may perform a selection that they or someone else has written, but that has not been published. However, if this option is chosen, a copy of this original work MUST be emailed to fcaafinearts@yahoo.com by January 31st for approval.
6. At the time of the performance, the judge will announce the participants(s). The participant(s) will then wait for the judge to say, "You may begin." At that time, the participant(s) will say their name, school name, the title and author of their selection. The participant(s) may provide an introductory statement for the piece. This addition should not exceed one minute and is included in the time limit.
7. Time limits will be adhered to. One point will be deducted for every ten seconds that a participant goes over or under the time limit. If the participants go more than one minute over or under, they may be disqualified.
8. Props may only be used for specified categories. If props are needed, they must be brought by the participant. Plant materials that come apart in small pieces may not be used unless something is put down to catch any pieces that may fall on the platform during the performance. Chairs will be available at the competition, if needed.

9. All participants should be in the appropriate dress code for performances. Costumes are allowed for certain categories; however, they **MUST** still meet modesty standards. If casual clothing is needed for performance, participants must change right before performance and then return to regular dress code right after performance. Dress code violations can result in disqualification.

Memorized Categories

I. Category 1 – Dramatic/Scripture Interpretation/Dramatic Monologue

Description: The memorized oral interpretation of a serious selection of a narrative or dramatic literature, a Scripture passage, or a dramatic monologue.

- Time limit: 3-6 minutes
- Do not register poetry or humorous selections in this category.
- No costumes or props are allowed for this category.
- If a selection is chosen that has several characters speaking, participants should make use of the “Dramatic V” technique.

II. Category 2 – Humorous Interpretation/Humorous Monologue

Description: The memorized oral interpretation of a humorous selection.

- Time limit: 3-6 minutes
- A multitude of “one liners” is not acceptable.
- Cuttings may be taken from published plays or prose.
- No costumes or props are allowed for this category.
- If a selection is chosen that has several characters speaking, participants should make use of the “Dramatic V” technique.

III. Category 3 – Oral Interpretation of Poetry

Description: The memorized oral interpretation of poetry that includes an introduction to the poem.

- Time limit: 3-6 minutes
- Each entry may include an introduction (overview) of the poem that is no longer than 30 seconds.
- The participant should make the poem “come alive.” This can be done by use of vocal and facial expression.
- Limited gestures are allowed but should not take away from the performance of the piece.
- A selection of two shorter poems may be used to meet the necessary time limit. If so, poems should be of similar theme or same author.
- If a selection is chosen that has several characters speaking, participants should make use of the “Dramatic V” technique.

IV. Category 4: Duet Acting

Description: A stage performance in which two individuals each portray one character without the use of script, costumes, staging, lights, sound effects, or make-up.

- Time limit: 5-12 minutes
- Duet acting will develop an understanding scene with clear character relationships, character movement, and character action and reaction.
- Characters may speak to silent off-stage characters.
- Actors may make use of small hand props and costume accessories.
- No make-up, lighting, full costumes, or furniture other than a table and two chairs may be used.
- Selections may come from published verse, dramatic or humorous plays, or other published sources of tasteful literary merit.

V. Category 5: Skit Acting

Description: A stage performance in which three to seven individuals teach a Biblical principle, Bible story, or character trait in skit form.

- Time limit: 4-10 minutes
- Skit acting will develop an understanding scene with clear character relationships, character movement, and character action and reaction. Characters can interact with each other.
- Selections may come from Bible stories, published books, plays or other stories that teach a moral, or can be written by the participants or teachers. (Remember if that is the case, they must be sent in for approval no later than January 31st to fcaafinearts@yahoo.com.)
- The skit should be something that would be appropriate for Sunday School, Junior Church, or Teen Group Meeting.
- Characters may speak to silent off-stage characters.
- Actors may make use of small props and costumes.

Non-Memorized Categories

I. Category 1 – Dramatic Reading/Declamation

Description: The mostly memorized oral interpretation of a serious selection. A declamation is the oral interpretation of persuasive or inspirational material originally prepared by another person. (Example: Lincoln's Gettysburg Address)

- Time limit: 3-6 minutes
- Rules are the same as for Dramatic Interpretation with the exception that a script is allowed for this category.
- A podium or notebook is allowed, however, the participant should not be "tied" to the script. They should be so familiar with the selection that the script is only there as a guide. Eye contact MUST be made with the audience and the judges.
- Do not register poetry in this category.
- No costumes or props are allowed for this category.

- If a selection is chosen that has several characters speaking, the participants should make use of the “Dramatic V” technique.

II. Category 2 – Humorous Reading/Monologue

Description: The mostly memorized oral interpretation of a humorous selection.

- Time limit: 3-6 minutes
- Rules are the same as for Humorous Interpretation with the exception that a script is allowed for this category.
- A podium or notebook is allowed; however, the participant should not be “tied” to the script. They should be so familiar with the selection that the script is only there as a guide. Eye contact **MUST** be made with the audience and the judges.
- Do not register poetry or scripture selections in this category.
- No costumes or props are allowed for this category.
- If a selection is chosen that has several characters speaking, the participants should make use of the “Dramatic V” technique.

III. Category 3 – Bible Lesson

Description: The teaching of a Bible doctrine, concept, or story of a Bible character.

- Time limit: 4-8 minutes
- Participants may be male or female.
- A missionary biography or contemporary story is not sufficient.
- Each lesson should include an introduction that gives the main Scripture verse and/or the Christian truth that is being taught.
- **Each lesson must be prepared for a class of junior-age children, ages 9-12.**
- Each lesson **MUST** include some type of visual aid, such as flannel graph, object lesson, chart, poster, etc.
- All lessons must be original and cannot be taken from published or unpublished sources.
- Reference materials may be used for background explanatory material.
- The outline must include the following:
 - Objectives of the lesson
 - Specific principles to be taught
 - Scripture references
 - Materials required
 - Brief summary of the lesson
 - Bibliography
- **Outlines must be submitted** to the judges along with the judge forms. Two points will be deducted from the final score if the outline is not submitted.
- Outlines may be used by the participant, but the entire script should not be written out. Please use a simple outline. Make sure to engage the audience. This is meant for an audience of younger children.

IV. Category 4 – Bible Preaching (This may be expository or topical preaching)

Description: *Expository Preaching* – a form of preaching that expounds upon the meaning of a particular text or passage of Scripture. Expository preaching differs from topical preaching in that the former concentrates on a specific text and discusses topics covered therein, whereas the latter concentrates on a specific topic and

references texts covering the topic. *Topical Preaching* – A topical sermon is one in which the topic governs the main points. The main points should be supported from various texts that pertain to the topic.

- Time limit: 5-10 minutes
- Participants will be restricted to young men.
- Only the King James Version of the Bible may be used.
- Dress code for preaching should be dress pants, dress shirt, suit jacket, tie and dress shoes.
- **Outlines must be submitted** to the judges along with the judge forms. Two points will be deducted from the final score if the outline is not submitted.
- Participants may use the outline to preach from, but should not have the entire message written/typed out.

V. Category 5 – Puppet Show

Description: A presentation using puppets that teaches a Bible story with a moral or other Bible truth.

- Time limit: 4-8 minutes
- Puppet teams must be made up of two or more participants.
- Only students (no adults) registered for the competition may be involved in the puppet show.
- Music for the puppet show should not exceed more than 1 ½ minutes of the performance time. ALL music must be pre-approved according to the music guidelines.
- Scripts may be pre-recorded. However, the students who are working with the puppets are the only ones allowed to speak, whether recorded or live.
- If it is not pre-recorded, scripts are permitted to be used during the performance.
- The puppet show will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Do the puppets seem real? ○ Do the mouth and body movements match the dialogue with a natural flow? ○ Was it effective in teaching a Bible truth or Bible story with a moral?
 - Did it keep the attention of the audience? (Audience interaction is suggested)
- Puppet teams may use an “MC,” but it must be a student participant.
- All participants must supply their own puppets and puppet stage. If pre-arrangements are made, two or more schools may share a puppet stage provided by one of the schools.

VI. Category 6 – Reader’s Theatre

Description: The oral presentation of a dramatic, poetic, or prose material by a group focused on the audience

- Time limit: 4-10 minutes
- Group size may be three or more participants
- Participants may use small hand props and costume accessories.
- No make-up, lighting, full costumes, or furniture other than a table, chairs, stools, and music stands or podiums are allowed.
- Platforms or prop boxes are allowed.
- Participants may use scripts. However, the participants should not be “tied” to the script. They should be so familiar with the selection that the script is only there as a guide. Eye contact MUST be made with the audience and the judges.

- It is suggested that participants use some type of stand on which to place their scripts, so hands are free for gestures.
- Characters may NOT interact with each other as they do in duet acting. All actions are toward the audience. No eye or body contact should be made with other characters.

VII. Category 7 – Original Persuasive

Description: An extemporaneous oral presentation designed to move an audience toward personal action or to sway audience opinion.

- Time Limit: 3-6 minutes
- Scripts may NOT be used; however, the participant may use a basic outline. No more than 10% of the speech can be direct quotations.
- Small hand props or costume pieces are permitted.
- **Outlines must be submitted** to the judges along with the judge forms. Two points will be deducted from the final score if the outline is not submitted.

MUSIC--General Rules

1. Each student must bring three copies of the appropriate judges' forms for their entry. **The top portion of each judges' form must be completely filled out.** Choirs do NOT need a judge form for each song. Just three judge forms total. Also, please do not use sheet protectors for judge forms and music.
2. Three copies of each piece of music should be presented with the forms. Photocopies should be submitted for the judges to mark for comment.

ALL ENTRIES MUST HAVE at least one original copy of the music to be shown to the judges. If the music is out of print, proof of a legally obtained permission must be submitted. If proof has not been legally obtained, participants will be disqualified.

3. All participants **are required** to provide linkage to the Bible and to Christ (Form A). All Scripture references must come from the King James Version of the Bible. Please email the FCAA office (bedell@desoto.net) if you have trouble finding the required linkages. A copy of this form (Form A) must be included with the judge forms.
4. **Measures of each music selection must be numbered.** If music is on the pre-approved list, the publisher must be highlighted or noted on the judge form or music.
5. No student or group will perform the same selection in two consecutive years. In addition, the same selection is not to be used by multiple groups from the same school in the same year.
6. Deviations from the music should be noted on the music. This is very important so that the judges can correctly follow along with the music.
7. Either the leader or one of the participants should introduce themselves and announce the selection they will be performing.

8. Generally, any reproduction of a copyrighted work is an infringement of the copyright owner and subjects the person reproducing to civil liabilities. However, among the exceptions to this general rule is the “fair use” doctrine set forth in Section 107, Title 17 of the United States code.

The fair use of a copyrighted work, including reproduction, for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, including multiple copies for classroom use, for scholarship or research is not an infringement of copyright.

9. No choreography, planned or unnecessary bodily movement, including hand clapping, foot stomping, deaf signing, finger snapping, etc., will be permitted.
10. No soundtracks are permitted.
11. Music that is heavily rhythmic, heavily syncopated and has worldly sounding vocal styles should be avoided. A crooning, night club or country sound is not permitted.
12. Music that is of the following styles will not be permitted:
- CCM (Contemporary Christian Music)
 - Pop
 - Rock
 - Jazz
 - Modern Southern Gospel
 - Christian Rock
13. No accompanists are provided by FCAA. Students must bring their own.
14. An emailed copy of the music being performed should be submitted to fcaafinearts@yahoo.com for approval between January 1 and January 31. Any music not submitted during this time can only come from the pre-approved list of music publishers.

Please remember that even piano and instrumental music needs to be approved.

A music approval letter must be included with judge forms if music is not on the pre-approved list. An FCAA Coordinator will send a list of each school’s approved songs after all songs have been submitted.

MUSIC MUST BE CHECKED EVERY YEAR EVEN IF IT HAS BEEN APPROVED IN PAST YEARS.

15. All entries should be memorized. Group instrumental pieces do NOT need to be memorized.

Minimum time for all music entries is 1 minute for the Jr. High division and 1½ minutes for the Sr. High division.

16. A group that is composed of a mixture of middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12) students will be judged with the high school competition.
17. *Any classical music after 1910 will need to go through the approval process.

18. *Movie Film scores are not permitted. *

PRE-APPROVED LIST - Music from the following publishers does **NOT** need to be submitted for approval. (It is already approved.)

- Wilds (published before the year 2016 only)
- Bill Rice Ranch
- Bible Truth Music
- Majesty (published before the year 2012 only)
- Classical pieces (published before the year 1910 only)
- CNL Enterprise
- Soundforth (published before the year 2008 only)

PLEASE NOTE: Music from SOUNDFORTH is only pre-approved if it was published BEFORE the year 2008. Also, Majesty is only pre-approved if it was published BEFORE the year 2012. Wilds is only pre-approved if it was published before 2016. Anything after these dates needs to be sent in for approval.

General Rules – Vocal Competition

1. Male and female solos will be judged separately.
2. The soloist will be given five minutes to perform one selection.
3. The small group will consist of two to four members.
4. Small groups will be given up to five minutes to perform one song.
5. The ensemble will consist of five to eleven members and will perform one song in five minutes.
6. Choirs will consist of 12 or more members.
7. Choirs will be given up to ten minutes and may perform up to two songs of contrasting styles.
8. Music must be memorized.

General Rules – Instrumental Competition

1. Participants will be given five minutes to perform. (Classical piano solo has 8 minutes.)
2. Memorization is required for solo instrumentalists.
3. The categories for instrumental competition will be as follows:
 - Piano Solo (divided between sacred and classical)
 - Piano Duet
 - String
 - Wind
 - Mixed instrumental groups

4. Drums and electric guitars are not permitted.

5. Musical selections are not limited to sacred texts, but should not be contrary to Scripture.

6. Movie Film Scores are not permitted.

SPELLING BEE

Each school may enter two students for each division: Junior High (6th-8th grades) and Senior High (9th-12th grades). The lists will be sent out before registration opens. There will be separate lists for each division. If all of the words from the list have been used, the Bee Master will begin asking words from another list that participants have not seen. The Bee will be conducted in a traditional, single-elimination format and will be bound to the following responsibilities and general rules:

Responsibilities

The Bee Master – This position requires one who has worked with the words in advance and is prepared with the proper pronunciations, definitions, and sample sentences. The Bee Master controls the Bee and takes final responsibility for determining that the rules are followed.

The Judges – At least two teachers from different schools will be asked to follow along and determine whether contestants have spelled the words correctly. Their secondary responsibility is to assist the Bee Master in determining that the rules are followed.

The Watchers – At least two teachers from different schools will be asked to stand and observe the audience to determine that there is no cheating and giving of hints during the Bee.

General Rules

1. The Bee master will lead the contestants in a practice round before the competition starts.
2. In competition, the contestant must pronounce the word after the Bee Master gives it.
3. In competition, the contestant may request the Bee Master to re-pronounce the word, define it, or use it in a sentence. This may continue until the judges feel that the word has been made sufficiently clear.
4. If a word has one or more homonyms, the contestant is responsible to ask for clarification if they feel it is needed.
5. Contestants may take some time to think before spelling or while spelling the word. However, if the Judges and the Bee Master feel that the student is taking too much time, they retain the right to instruct a contestant to continue spelling or be eliminated.
6. Having started to spell the word, a contestant may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning. It is proper for the contestant to inform the judges that he plans to do so. In the retracing, there may be no change of letters or their sequence. If there are changes, the contestant will be disqualified.

7. Upon missing the spelling of a word, the contestant drops out of the contest. The next word on the Bee Master's list will be given to the next contestant.
8. When one of the last two contestants misspells a word, the other contestant must spell the same word. If the second contestant spells the word correctly, he must also spell the next word on the Bee Master's list in order to become the winner.
9. If both final contestants misspell the same word, both shall continue in the contest and the one who first misspelled the word will be given a new word to spell. The contest then proceeds according to rules six and seven.
10. Any question or clarification relating to the spelling of a word must be referred to the Bee Master and the Judges immediately and will not be considered once the Bee has been completed and a winner has been announced. The Bee Master and the Judges retain complete authority and control of the Bee. Their decision shall be final in any dispute.

VISUAL ARTS-General Rules

1. Entries are not restricted to sacred themes, but entries which reflect sensualism, humanism, occultism, or worldliness will be disqualified. Any subject detrimental to spiritual edification will not be allowed. Points will be deducted if all directions are not followed.
2. All participants **are required** to provide linkage to the Bible and to Christ (Form A). All Scripture references **must** come from the King James Version of the Bible. Please email the FCAA office (bedell@desoto.net) if you have trouble finding the required linkages. A copy of this form (Form A) must be included with the judge forms.
3. Entries may be submitted in two grade divisions: Jr. High division (6th-8th grade) and Sr. High division (9th-12th grade).
4. Each school may enter only two students per category in each division. Students may submit only ONE entry per category.
5. Each participating school will have one contact representative for the arts who will check in all entries prior to competition and submit all entries with the required attachments on the date of the competition to the check-in station. **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT ALL ENTRIES AND FORMS ARE COMPLETED BEFORE ARRIVING AT LANDMARK BAPTIST CHURCH. Forms for each piece MUST be completely filled out or the pieces will NOT be checked in.**
6. Each entry must be entirely the original work of one eligible student and created during the current year starting after the last competition (May 2024 through April 2025). The student may receive advice or instruction.
7. All art and photo entries must be **MATTED—NOT FRAMED** unless otherwise noted in the instructions. Photo mats may be any color that complements the picture. Black and white photos should have white mats only.

8. Photos may not have obvious “touch up” work. Good retouching, whether digital or analog, cannot be detected.
 - a. Retouching work should be limited to enhancements and modifications that improve the presentation of the image, but do not change the original photo. There can be no additions or replacement of objects in an image. Red-eye removal and spot editing are permitted.
 - b. Retouching may only include the use of corrective functions to improve the natural appearance (i.e., levels, contrast, curves, brightness, intensity, hue, tone, saturation, color balance, etc.)
 - c. Artistic filters may NOT be used.
 - d. Retouching is part of the creative process. Good retouching cannot be seen, and poor retouching will be graded against; therefore, graphics and text must not be included.
9. Upon arrival, each entry must submit the following at the check-in station:
 - A label on the back of the entry with the student’s name, school, grade, project title, and category
 - Three judging forms filled out with student and project information
 - A completed idea statement with signed “Statement of Originality”
 - Linkage to Bible and Christ (Form A)
 - Please do not use sheet protectors for judge forms.

Categories

I. Category 1 – Monochromatic Drawing

- Monochromatic drawing is done in only one color.
- Ink, pen, pencil, charcoal, another drawing medium or a combination of these is acceptable.
- The work must be completely dry before it is submitted. ● The work must be simply matted.

II. Category 2 – Polychromatic Drawing

- Polychromatic drawing is done in more than one color.
- Pastels, crayons, colored pencils, another drawing medium or a combination of these media is acceptable.
- Work done in a medium subject to smearing must be sealed with a protective spray or be covered with glass/acetate.
- The work must be completely dry before it is submitted. ● The work must be simply matted.

III. Category 3 – Watercolor

- Use of watercolor paper and any water-based medium such as watercolor, gouache or tempera is required.
- Translucent and opaque techniques are acceptable.
- The work must be completely dry before it is submitted. ● The work must be simply matted or framed.

IV. Category 4 – Oil Painting

- Use of oil-based paints on a suitable ground is required.
- Grounds may be canvas, wood, painting paper, or assorted art boards.
- The work must be completely dry before it is submitted.
- The work must be simply matted or framed. No mat or frame is necessary if a canvas is used; however, it must have neat, crisp, clean edges.

V. Category 5 – Acrylic Painting

- Use of acrylic paints on a suitable ground is required.
- Grounds may be canvas, wood, painting paper, or assorted art boards.
- The work must be completely dry before it is submitted.
- The work must be simply matted or framed. No mat or frame is necessary if a canvas is used; however, it must have neat, crisp, clean edges.

VI. Category 6– Sculpture

- Sculpture is the art of carving (subtracting) or modeling (shaping) or welding (combining) to produce a three-dimensional work.
- Acceptable materials include, but are not limited to, wood, stone, plaster, metal, ceramic slip, clay (both fired and unfired), balsa foam, model magic and friendly plastic. **Paper is an unacceptable material for sculpture.**
- If possible, the sculpture should have an attached base. If the base is not attached, then the project should be placed on an appropriate surface, such as a ceramic tile for display.

VII. Category 7 – Crafts

- A craft can be anything three-dimensional that is not a sculpture and conforms to the following list: jewelry making, stained glass, flower arranging (with student made flowers), basketry, tole painting (on wood or metal), wood burning, sand art, ribbon crafts, dioramas, bead work, leather work, paper mache, mosaics, nature art.
- Other crafts may be submitted with permission from the FCAA administration.
- No kits or commercially produced plans are acceptable.
- Entries must be original and handmade. Student's plans (sketches) **MUST BE** included with the entry or points will be deducted.

VIII. Category 8—Textiles

- Entries will be limited to the following list: macramé; weaving (must show extensive, comprehensive work); string/thread art; quilting; applique (hand-sewn only); needlework (such as candle wicking, embroidery, crochet, cross-stitch, knitting, needlepoint, etc.)
- Kits are NOT acceptable; however, commercially produced plans or patterns are acceptable. A copy of the plan or pattern must accompany the project or points will be deducted.
- No objects should be displayed other than the textile itself (no furniture, plants, or other items.)

IX. Category 9 – Black and White Photography

- The photograph must be a single black and white print.
- The print may not be touched up, altered, or digitally enhanced through use of any software except according to the general guidelines given for photography.
- The print will be judged on the basis of composition, aesthetic appeal and originality.
- The print size is to be eight inches by ten inches. (8 x 10).
- Photos must be matted, not framed. Mats must be WHITE.

X. Category 10 – Still Life Color Photography

- The photograph must be a single-color print of an inanimate arrangement of objects or design (i.e., flowers in a vase, etc.) Not flowers in their natural habitat. Subject needs to be arranged artistically.
- The print may not be touched up, altered, or digitally enhanced through use of any software except according to the general guidelines given for photography.
- The print will be judged on the basis of composition, aesthetic appeal, and originality.
- The print size is to be eight inches by ten inches (8 x 10).
- Photos must be matted, not framed. Mats can be any color.

XI. Category 11 – People and Animal Color Photography

- The photograph must be a single-color print of a person or animal.
- The print may not be touched up, altered, or digitally enhanced through use of any software except according to the general guidelines given for photography.
- The print will be judged on the basis of composition, aesthetic appeal, and originality.
- The print size is to be eight inches by ten inches (8 x 10).
- Photos must be matted, not framed. Mats can be any color.

XII. Category 12 – Landscape and Nature Photography

- The photograph must be a single-color print of a landscape or focal point of nature. An example would be flowers in their natural habitat.
- The print may not be touched up, altered, or digitally enhanced through use of any software except according to the general guidelines given for photography.
- The print will be judged on the basis of composition, aesthetic appeal, and originality.
- The print size is to be eight inches by ten inches (8 x 10).
- Photos must be matted, not framed. Mats may be any color.

XIII. Category 13 – Architecture/Design Photography

- The photograph must be a single-color print of a piece of architecture or focal point of architectural design.
- The print may not be touched up, altered, or digitally enhanced through use of any software except according to the general guidelines given for photography.
- The print will be judged on the basis of composition, aesthetic appeal and originality.
- The print size is to be eight inches by ten inches (8x10).
- Photos must be matted, not framed. Mats may be any color.

XIV. Category 14—Digital Media

- Digital media is a composition or design created, developed, assembled, or finished with the use of computer hardware and software.
- It may be pixel-based, vector-based, or a combination. It may include typographic elements.
- The work may be based on a photograph and may include scanned images or art. However, no stock photography may be used. (An original copy of the photograph needs to be included with artwork or points will be deducted.)
- The digital file may be printed on a variety of media including, but not limited to, paper or canvas. The final print should be of high enough resolution to produce a smooth image with no unintended pixelation. The final print should be suitably matted, mounted or framed as with any piece of fine art.
- It will be judged on the basis of composition, aesthetic appeal, originality, and technical achievement.

XV. Category 15 – Photo Essay

- This is a series of prints (5-10) that tell a story.
- The photographs may be color or black and white.
- The prints will be judged on composition, originality, aesthetic appeal, uniqueness, and depth of planning and thought.
- The print size is to be 4 inches by 6 inches (4 x 6).
- Photos must be matted or framed and arranged so all will be on view at the same time (not in an album).

CREATIVE WRITING--General Rules

1. The Creative Writing challenge will take place at the individual schools, usually in February or March before the competition
2. Students wishing to participate will meet in a testing center all at one time and be given two hours (maximum) to complete their story.
3. Participants may bring a dictionary, thesaurus, KJV Bible, and grammar workbook for reference purposes if they wish.
4. Participants must bring their own pen or pencil, but paper will be provided for them. Participants must write on the front of the paper only.
5. All students will be given the same prompt and target word count, and no students may complete the creative writing assignment if they arrive later or receive the prompt at a different time. (This prevents cheating and the seeking of outside help.)
6. If a student is registered for competition but is absent the day of the competition, they are automatically withdrawn. However, another student may take their place as long as they also are registered for the Fine Arts Competition.
7. Judges will select a winner based on the following categories:

- Creativity
- Adherence to grammar and punctuation standards (unless divergence is obviously intentional for the sake of character development or creativity)
- Complexity of development
- Use of vocabulary
- Meeting the target word count
- Development of theme
- Use of imagery
- Use of standard literary tools (personification, foreshadowing, symbolism, etc.)
- Use of creative (non-trite) phrasing and idiom
- Overall impression

ACADEMIC TESTING – General Rules

Tests will be given in Bible, math, English, science, and history. A separate test will be given to each of the two divisions (grades 6-8 and grades 9-12). Each school may enter up to five of their top scholars for each test in each division.

--9-12 grade students ONLY may bring a scientific calculator to use for the math test. No phones or graphing calculators are allowed.

--Testing will be done at the individual schools before the competition. Tests will be sent to the school sponsors via email on the day of testing from the FCAA Academic Coordinator.

SCIENCE FAIR

Each school may enter two students for each grade level, for example, two students for grade 6; two students for grade 7, and so on.

Each participant must present 3 judge forms with the top portion filled out completely. All participants **are required** to provide a linkage to the Bible and to Christ (Form A). All Scripture references must come from the King James Version of the Bible. Please email the FCAA office (bedell@desoto.net) if you have trouble finding the required linkages. A copy of this form (Form A) must be included with the judge forms, along with a journal which contains observed data. Please **paper clip** each judge form. Do NOT staple them together. Any participant who does not have the judge forms, linkage form, or required journal can be disqualified from the competition. Please do not use sheet protectors to hold the judge forms.

General Rules

1. The project must follow the six basic steps of the scientific method.
2. The project must involve experimentation. It CANNOT be a demonstration. **A simple demonstration will be automatically disqualified.** A good experiment has three main parts:
 - A. The control group – the test subject that is not exposed to the independent variable.
 - B. The experimental group(s) – the test subject(s) that are exposed to the independent variable.

- C. The variables – the factors that are controlled during testing. 1) Dependent variable: the factor/condition that is used to measure (observe) the outcome of the experiment. 2) Independent variable: the factor/condition that is not held constant for every testing group that could affect the results of the experiment. 3) Controlled variables (constants): the factors/conditions that stay the same throughout each testing group.

An example of the above criteria would be, “What is the effect of a certain fertilizer on the growth of pea plants?” The control group is not given the fertilizer but is treated the same in all other areas. The experimental group is given the fertilizer. The variable is the fertilizer.

--Students should use many test subjects or perform the experiment as many times as possible to gain consistent results. Running the test or experiment only one time will result in the student being disqualified.

--Students must record all observations in a journal and should include the dates and times of all observations.

--Students need to only have ONE variable in their experiment.

3. The science project should be creative, narrowly defined, and appropriate for the grade level of the student. The display should also be done neatly and use color attractively. Points will be deducted for displays that have handwritten elements on them.
4. The display must be a minimum size of 36 by 48 inches but no larger than 48 by 72 inches. Most boards purchased at Walmart and office supply stores will meet the minimum size requirements.
5. The following elements must be present in the display:
 - Research Question- this serves as the title of the project
 - Research List- students should include references for the books or websites that they used to research their hypothesis
 - Hypothesis– a hypothesis is an educated guess as to the answer to the research question. Research should be done in order to form a proper hypothesis and should provide a reason why the student believes their hypothesis to be correct. Another way to view the hypothesis is: “What do I think the answer is and why do I think it is this?” **The hypothesis MUST be given in an “If/Then... because” statement.** (i.e., If *abc* has occurred, then it is because of *xyz*.)
 - Methodology- the step-by-step procedures the student followed for completing the experiment. (i.e., cookbook directions)
 - Charts or graphs- these should show the statistical treatment of the observations gathered from the experiment. The chart/graph should include: a title, the dependent variable, the independent variable, and show the results of the experiment.
 - Conclusion- the answer to the research question gathered from the observations of the experiment.
 - Abstract- a 200–250-word summary of the project. This should include the hypothesis, methodology, observations, and conclusion.
 - Three-dimensional display- not on the display board but on the table in front. These are the tools and subjects used in performing the experiment.

6. **Each project must have a journal which contains observed data.**
7. Participants must be prepared for an interview (oral presentation) with one of the Science Fair judges. Participants should plan on the interview being approximately 5 minutes in length.
8. The projects will be graded according to four criteria:
 - A. Display elements and artistic skill – 30 points possible
 - B. Journal – 10 points possible
 - C. Scientific thinking – 45 points possible
 - D. Oral presentation – 15 points possible

BIBLE QUIZ TEAM

Each school may enter one Bible Quiz Team. A team must have a minimum of two members and a maximum of five members. **The quiz for 2025 will be 1 Samuel chapters 1-10)**

Changes to BIBLE QUIZ from previous years

Due to the increased number of teams and members, there will be a few changes to the quizzing format.

1. Teams of 2 will be seated on the platform – additional team members will NOT be on the platform but seated on the front pews. *This will allow better judging/fairness with less members on the platform. **Only members on the platform will be able to answer questions** - those seated on the front pews must wait to be rotated in to participate.
2. Teams will be given the opportunity to rotate members (**NOT required, only as necessary**). Chances to swap out members will be offered by the Bible Quiz Host after every 5 questions, or at least twice, to allow all members a chance to participate. Members may swap back in as desired, at the rotate signal given from the Host.
3. A point will be earned by the first-standing team to correctly answer each question. If the question is answered incorrectly, the next team in standing order may attempt to answer.

General Rules

1. Each team will be given a dry-erase board on which to write their answers (after quickly writing their response on the dry-erase board, the first team to stand will be given a chance to show their answer).
2. All questions will be in the interrogative question form—who, whom, what, why, where, when, which, how.
3. All questions will include the book and chapter citation from which the question is drawn.
4. The answers given must use the exact wording that is used in the verse.
5. Answers that are numbers may be written in numeric format rather than word format.
6. There will be bonus questions on the material that are a little more challenging than the other questions.