

February 1, 2021

Greetings, 5th Grade Teachers & Principals!

The Hays Arts Council is proud to present the **25th Annual** Ellis County **FAMOUS FIGURES** project for Fifth Grade students. This project has been received very enthusiastically and though we again have to change it up a bit, we are excited to continue this educational, cultural and entertaining event through the support of the **Hays Rotary Club**.

“**Famous Figures**” is a competition open to 5th grade students throughout Ellis County. The contest involves students researching, developing, memorizing and then presenting a favorite character from history (living or deceased, but **NOT** fictional). This competition is being offered to promote thinking and writing in a creative manner, the use of research skills, awareness and appreciation of the qualities of positive leadership, as well as nurturing acting and public speaking skills.

Two (2) contestants are allowed per 5th grade classroom. This is an individual competition – a two-person performance (such as the Wright Brothers, etc) is not eligible.

At this time, we are working on how it this year’s project will culminate. With COVID-19 restrictions in place at FHSU through the end of May, we will NOT be able to hold our traditional final competition in Beach/Schmidt – BUT, we are hoping to bring the competitive element back to this year’s project.

In light of that, we are exploring the option of recording all of a single school’s finalists at one time, scheduling each school separately, and using the same location & conditions for all contestants. We would send those video files to our judges, and with that uniformity, they could evaluate & compare contestants in a fair and equitable manner (contestant & school information of characters would remain anonymous). After the judging results announcement, ALL finalist performances would be posted to our website for public viewing . . . and of course, for you to share in your schools!

The names of the competitors and their characters are to be submitted to the Hays Arts Council by no later than **4:00pm, Wednesday, April 28**. However, we would appreciate it if you or your school could call our office (625-7522) or email me (bmeder1038@aol.com) by April 1 with a confirmation as to whether you plan to participate or not.

Please feel free to contact me at the Hays Arts Council if you are new to the project or have any questions after looking over this information. We hope you and your students have a great time with this exciting program and we wish you and your students much success!

Thank you!



Brenda K. Meder
Executive Director