

# LCS Festival

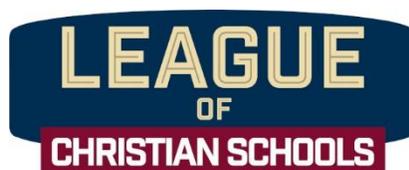
## For Academics & The Arts

# STUDENT ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK



*Discover. | Develop. | Deploy*

*"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" -Philippians 3:14*



*The festival is a program provided to members of the League of Christian Schools, LLC.*

# Contents

Important Information & Updates for 2026 .....	6
Early Submission Requirement- Digital Categories Submitted Online.....	6
Early Submission Requirement- Physical Categories Submitted to LCS Office. ....	6
Other Submission Requirement- Physical Submission Categories Submitted at the Festival.....	6
General Information .....	7
Purpose.....	7
Rules Agreement.....	7
The Festival.....	7
Participant Requirements .....	7
District FAF Registration.....	7
Category Adjustments .....	7
Evaluation Process and Ratings.....	7
Code of Conduct.....	8
Dress Code.....	8
Audio & Equipment .....	8
Room Configuration .....	8
Content.....	9
Rule and Time Violations.....	9
Introductory Comments & Time limits.....	9
Required Introductory Comments.....	9
Approved Languages.....	9
Group Entry Participant Guidelines .....	10
Category Sizes .....	10
Divisions .....	10
Entry Limit Guidelines.....	10
License.....	10
Copyrighted Material .....	10
Approved Instrument Lists .....	11
Registration Categories and Divisions .....	12
Academic Division .....	12
Writing Division .....	12
Communication Division .....	12
Visual Arts Division.....	13
Dance Division .....	13
Drama Division.....	14
Instrumental Division .....	14
Vocal Division .....	14
Academic Division: Math Olympics .....	15
Basic Math Rules for Grades 3–5.....	16

Basic Math Rules for Grades 6-8 .....	16
Basic Math Rules for Grades 9-12 .....	16
Academic Division: Science Fair .....	17
Types of Projects .....	17
Non-Experimental – Grades 3-5: .....	17
Experimental – Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12:.....	17
Science Project Requirements .....	18
Project Design .....	18
Material .....	18
Size.....	18
Board Requirements .....	18
Logbook.....	19
Biblical Reference .....	19
Equipment.....	19
Credit.....	20
Oral Presentation.....	20
Project Assistance .....	20
Safety and Concerns .....	20
Science Fair Judging.....	20
Academic Division: Geography Bee.....	21
Academic Division: Spelling Bee .....	22
Writing Division .....	24
Short Story .....	25
Writing Evaluation Criteria .....	25
First-Person Essay.....	26
Writing Evaluation Criteria .....	26
Poetry .....	27
Writing Evaluation Criteria .....	27
Book Chapter .....	28
Writing Evaluation Criteria .....	28
Children’s Literature .....	29
Writing Evaluation Criteria .....	29
Flash Fiction.....	30
Writing Evaluation Criteria .....	30
Mini Saga .....	31
Writing Evaluation Criteria .....	31
Communication Division .....	32
Short Sermon .....	33
Short Sermon Evaluation Criteria .....	33
Spoken Word.....	34

Spoken Word Evaluation Criteria.....	34
Short Film.....	35
Short Film Evaluation Criteria.....	35
Bible Memorization .....	37
Bible Memorization Evaluation Criteria .....	37
Speech - Patriotic Oration.....	38
Speech Patriotic Evaluation Criteria .....	38
Speech – Poetry.....	39
Speech Poetry Evaluation Criteria .....	39
Visual Arts Division.....	40
General Art Division Rules.....	41
Visual Art, Three-Dimensional General Rules.....	42
Sculpture and Ceramics.....	43
Visual Art Evaluation Criteria .....	43
3D Mixed Media.....	44
Visual Art Evaluation Criteria .....	44
Fiber Art.....	45
Visual Art Evaluation Criteria .....	45
Visual Art, Two-Dimensional General Rules.....	46
Drawing - Monochromatic .....	47
Visual Art Evaluation Criteria .....	47
Drawing - Color.....	48
Visual Art Evaluation Criteria .....	48
Painting – Oil.....	49
Visual Art Evaluation Criteria .....	49
Painting – Acrylic.....	50
Visual Art Evaluation Criteria .....	50
Painting – Watercolor.....	51
Visual Art Evaluation Criteria .....	51
2D Mixed Media.....	52
Visual Art Evaluation Criteria .....	52
Graphic Design .....	53
Evaluation Criteria .....	53
Apparel Design .....	54
Evaluation Criteria .....	54
Photography.....	55
Photography – Still Life .....	55
Photography – Landscape and Architecture .....	55
Photography – People and Animals .....	55
Photography Evaluation Criteria .....	55

Dance Division ..... 57

    Dance Division General Rules ..... 57

    Step Or Urban Dance Evaluation Criteria ..... 59

    Worship Dance – Classical, Ballet and Contemporary Evaluation Criteria ..... 60

Drama Division..... 61

    Drama ..... 62

        Drama Evaluation Criteria ..... 62

    Dramatized Quoting ..... 63

        Dramatized Quoting Evaluation Criteria ..... 63

    Human Video..... 65

        Human Video Evaluation Criteria..... 65

    Musical Theater..... 67

        Musical Theater Evaluation Criteria..... 67

    Readers Theater..... 69

        Readers Theater Evaluation Criteria..... 69

Instrumental Division ..... 70

    Instrumental General Rules ..... 70

    Piano Solo Evaluation Criteria ..... 72

    Percussion, Solo and Ensemble ..... 73

        Percussion Evaluation Criteria..... 73

    Instrumental Solo Evaluation Criteria..... 74

    Instrumental Ensemble & Orchestra Ensembles ..... 75

        Instrumental Ensemble Evaluation Criteria ..... 75

    Music Production (new category) ..... 76

        Music Production Rules..... 76

        Music Production Evaluation Criteria ..... 78

Vocal ..... 79

    General Information ..... 79

    Vocal General Rules ..... 79

    Worship Team ..... 80

        Worship Team Evaluation Criteria ..... 80

    Rap..... 80

        Rap Evaluation Criteria..... 81

    Songwriting ..... 82

        Songwriting Evaluation Criteria..... 82

    Vocal Ensemble/Solo ..... 84

    Choir..... 85

        Vocal Ensemble/Choir Evaluation Criteria..... 85

    Christian Band..... 86

        Christian Band Evaluation Criteria..... 86

## Important Information & Updates for 2026

- Please see the rulebook for the complete listing of revised rules for each category.
- Tshirt Design has been updated to Apparel Design, and will continue to be a digital submission. See category rules for details.
- The speech categories will be for only 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students (patriotic, poetry, bible memorization).
- Watercolor paintings category rules and expected mediums have been clarified.
- Orchestra Ensemble category rules have been included (upper & lower)
- The categories Sculpture and Ceramics will be combined into one category.
- The LCS Festival Coordinator Form is due online by December 31, 2025. The coordinator will gain access to a shared Google folder with essential festival information, including the rulebook. The Festival Coordinator must also check in physically on the morning of the first day of the festival at the designated time (to be announced).
- All registrations will be online only. Registration closes at 5:00pm on January 30, 2026. Digital submission links and instructions will be sent after registration.
- The participant registration fee is \$20.50 per student/per entry, with a deadline of 5:00pm on January 12, 2026.
- The late and final registration fee is \$25.75 per student/per entry, with a deadline of 5:00pm on January 30, 2026. No new entries/participants after 5:00pm on January 30, 2026.
- Festival souvenir t-shirts are available for \$17 by online pre-order only, by January 30, 2026.
- Change requests/error corrections may only be made through February 13, 2026. No changes will be accepted after this date. Only drops will be allowed after February 13, 2026.
- Categories with an early submission deadline requirement must be submitted by 5:00pm on February 5, 2026, for both digital and physical early submission categories. **See clarification below.**
- The festival schedule will be available on February 27, 2026.
- The festival will take place at Southeastern University on March 6-7, 2026.

**Early Submission Requirement- Digital Categories Submitted Online.** Participants who register for digital submission categories will receive an email with digital submission instructions and file type/size requirements. Participants will be required to create an account with the digital submission platform. The following categories are to be submitted digitally by the early submission deadline and are not required to be present at the festival:

- All Photography
- Graphic Design
- Apparel Design
- All Writing Categories except Children's Literature (**PDF format only. Do not share a Google Doc, live Microsoft 365 Doc, etc. Before uploading, Save as, Export as, or Download as a PDF before submitting to guarantee that it will be evaluated.**)
- Short Film (*must provide an "unlisted" YouTube link*)

**Early Submission Requirement- Physical Categories Submitted to LCS Office.** The following categories are to be submitted physically to the LCS office (drop off location address to be announced) by the early submission deadline and are not required to be present at the festival:

- All 2D Artwork (see each category for required art form, mounting and matting requirements)

## Other Submission Requirement- Physical Submission Categories Submitted at the

**Festival.** The following categories are to be submitted physically at the festival by the designated time on the morning of the first day of the festival, after the coordinator checks in at the check in site (time to be announced).

- Submit Early at Festival. Not required to attend the festival
  - All 3D Artwork (see each category for required art form, mounting and matting requirements)
  - Children's Literature (see category for title page and printing requirements)
- Submit early at Festival before live presentation. Required to attend the festival
  - All Science Fair (see category requirements)

## General Information

### Purpose

The LCS Festival is a discipleship tool to help students discover, develop, and deploy their ministry gifts. Although competitive elements are present, providing a competitive venue is not the festival's primary mission. Through the Festival, students have the opportunity to have their skills evaluated by qualified ministers, industry professionals, and educators who encourage excellence, offer ideas for improvement, and inspire students to use their gifts in the local church, community, and around the world in ministry or secular vocation. Scores are less critical than lessons learned, experience gained, and skills developed.

### Rules Agreement

All participants must read and abide by this Festival Rulebook. Each participant is responsible for being familiar with this festival's rules and procedures. No other person will be held responsible for a participant's lack of information.

By registering, attending or participating in a festival, all principals, teachers, leaders, parents, students and participants acknowledge that:

- They have read, understand, and agree to abide by the rules of this festival.
- They will accept the decisions of the festival and evaluators as final.

### The Festival

Students must register with their school or be an individual member of the League of Christian Schools or one of its subsidiaries. Students may not participate in multiple schools. If the student attends more than one member school, he/she must select only one school to participate in.

The following ratings are given to presentations:

Up to 19 points	Fair
20-26 points	Good
27-33 points	Excellent
34-40 points	Superior
38-40 points	Superior with Invitation (Upper Division only)
-2 points	Time Violation
-2 points	Rule Violation

If mistakes are made in computing point values or other situations require attention at the festival, contact the Festival Director.

### Participant Requirements

LCS Festival is open to all Christian students who meet the following criteria:

- Participating students must be enrolled in grades 3-12 in a Christian school as of October 1 or be a bona fide home school student.
- Participants must attend a school that is a member of the League of Christian Schools (LCS), which includes the International League of Christian Schools (ILCS) or the Florida League of Christian Schools (FLOCS) or hold an individual student membership with one of the above agencies.

### District FAF Registration

Each 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade student who receives a "Superior with Invitation" or "Advance" rating at the LCS Festival in certain categories, may be eligible to receive a discount on registration for the PFYouth District Fine Arts Festival. The PFYouth registration is available at [www.pfyouth.org](http://www.pfyouth.org) and generally opens in January of each year. Please note that not all LCS Festival Categories are available at the District Fine Arts Festival. See their rulebook for details.

### Category Adjustments

We reserve the right to combine or separate categories prior to the date of the festival based on actual participation each year. Any category with fewer than seven participants may be combined.

### Evaluation Process and Ratings

Each participating school shall suggest names of qualified judges. The names of officials/judges and qualifications must be submitted one month before the competition for consideration. **If participants' parents serve as officials, they may not judge in a category in which their child participates.**

Three qualified evaluators, chosen for their education, expertise, and impartiality, evaluate each presentation by using the following general criteria:

- Selection
- Communication

- Presentation and Technique
- Effectiveness

Specific evaluation criteria for each category are found in this manual.

An average of the scores from three evaluators determines the rating of each entry.

There may be callbacks in categories with many entries, if needed. Callbacks are issued to a top percentage or number of the entries receiving a “Superior with Invitation” rating. Callbacks assist the evaluators in choosing the top three participants in a category. Evaluation sheets are not distributed for callback presentations. The rating participants receive during their initial presentation is reflected on the evaluation sheets distributed and is the permanent record for scholarship verification. The categories conducting callbacks at the festival will be listed in the final schedule.

## Code of Conduct

The League of Christian Schools maintains a high standard for its participants and attendees. Parents, leaders, students, and guests involved in this Festival should be committed to the ministry and represent Christ in their behavior and dress.

Parents, leaders, students, and guests should demonstrate integrity, respect, and support for all other schools, teams, evaluators, and participants. An overly competitive attitude, rudeness, or unsportsmanlike conduct will not be accepted and is grounds for dismissal.

All participants and attendees are responsible for leaving a positive impression on the facilities and the people with whom we work. Therefore, any participant or attendee showing disrespect for people or property may be disqualified and dismissed from competing.

## Dress Code

**Appropriate dress is required for all entries**—keeping category norms, intended audience, and ministry effectiveness in mind. School leaders should be prepared to enforce school dress codes for both students and adults during the festival.

## Audio & Equipment

The festival only provides 3.5mm (1/8”) audio plugs for presentations requiring audio. Participants must bring a suitable device with a 3.5 mm (1/8”) audio jack to play their tracks. **USB drives and CDs are not accommodated. Ensure that the audio is downloaded onto your device (not using Wi-Fi/data service). Put the device in airplane mode/do not disturb and remove the screen lock feature.**

Where space or other limitations exist, the festival reserves the right to remove or limit the availability of the equipment provided.

## Room Configuration

Every effort is made to provide adequate space for all presentations. However, be prepared to adjust your presentation according to room and stage sizes.

Categories such as speech, spelling, etc., are held in student classrooms, which may limit the number of spectators. Therefore, parents may not be allowed in the room for observation in these categories. However, the awards presentations are conducted in the auditorium, and everyone is invited.

## Content

All presentations must reflect a clear Christian message, possess obvious redemptive value, and be presented with ministry effectiveness in mind.

Music used in any entry must present a message contributing to effective ministry when viewed in the overall presentation's context. Classical selections composed by church musicians, written for the church, or commissioned by the church are acceptable.

If there is any question regarding the Christian message of any content, the LCS suggests you make a different selection.

Selections or presentations that do not reflect a Christian message or lack an overall ministry-focused message may receive a two-point rule violation deduction or loss of points in the Selection or Effectiveness criteria of the evaluation.

The festival reserves the right to disqualify and remove from display any entry deemed illegal or inappropriate for this Festival in any way.

Except for classical music categories, secular music will not be showcased at the celebration service.

## Rule and Time Violations

Rules and time violations in any category will receive a two-point deduction per violation, per evaluator.

## Introductory Comments & Time limits

All scheduled events have time limitations (see specific category rules to determine time limits). Each presentation room has an official timekeeper. A two-point deduction from each evaluator is assessed if a presentation exceeds the time limit.

Time for setup begins when the name of the entry/participant is called as being "up," and the announcement is made that "your setup time begins now." Introductions do not count as part of the set up time.

All live presentation categories require an introduction **to be given after the set-up time and before the presentation.**

Time for the presentation begins **after the introduction** when a participant does or says anything to indicate the beginning of the presentation, not including introductory remarks, unless otherwise noted in the rules for that category.

## Required Introductory Comments

**Introductory comments are required for all presenting categories.** The following rule applies to any presentation, in any category, in any division. Before beginning the presentation, participants must introduce themselves and their piece. All setup, soundchecks, warm-ups, etc., must be completed prior to introduction. For specific category formats, see individual categories. Introductory comments DO NOT count toward the setup or presentation time limits. Comments must be minimal. Do not make other comments like a testimonial or justification for choosing the song(s), sermon, piece, etc.; 15 to 20 seconds is sufficient.

**The following rule applies to any presentation, in any category, in any division that uses music.** Before beginning the presentation, participants must introduce their music selection(s) by stating the title(s), name of the artist/composer, and arranger (if known). If the piece was composed or arranged by the student, that must be stated. Use this format: "Hello, my name is (or our group name is), and I/we have chosen to use "Song Title" by songwriter(s) (and "Song Title" #2 by songwriter(s), and "Song Title" #3 by songwriter [if applicable]) for our presentation."

**Please see individual categories for any additional requirements (specifically Short Sermon & Music Production).**

## Approved Languages

Currently, the festival is equipped to evaluate entries in English only. All aspects of all entries must be presented entirely in English.

## Group Entry Participant Guidelines

### Category Sizes

Individual categories are for one participant. The group categories are as follows:

An group/ensemble entry is a presentation given by two to ten students.

Small ensemble consists of two to four eligible students (e.g., Drama Ensemble, Small).

Large ensemble consists of five to ten eligible students (e.g., Drama Ensemble, Large).

Choir and Orchestra the only group entries that allow more than ten participants; up to seventy-five members are allowed. See category details for minimums.

### Divisions

In order to allow for more productive groupings and evaluations, an Upper Division and Lower Division have been established for group categories:

Lower Division includes groups with participants in grades 3 through 8.

Upper Division includes groups with participants in grades 6 through 12. Only the Upper Division groups can advance to Districts and Nationals, in participating categories.

In order to allow for more productive evaluations, most individual categories are separated into Elementary, Middle, and High School divisions.

Elementary includes 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades

Middle includes 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades

High includes 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades

### Entry Limit Guidelines

A participant may not enter the same category of a division twice.

There is no limit to the number of categories in each division for which a participant may register.

There is no limit to the number of qualified entries from one school or one participant unless the school imposes such limitations.

Examples:

- A 6th-8th grade participant may register for Drama Ensemble Lower (grades 3-8) and Drama Ensemble Upper (grades 6-12) as they are separate divisions and register as separate categories.
- A 6th-12th grade participant may enter Science Fair: Experimental Life and Science Fair: Physical Science as they register as separate categories.
- Any participant may enter every type of art or writing as they register as separate categories.
- Any participant may enter Photography: Landscape/Architecture and Photography People/Animals as they register as separate categories.

### License

All attendees and participants, by their signature on the registration form, grant permission to the League of Christian Schools and its subsidiaries to use the registrant's image(s) and to photograph, reproduce, edit, publish, and record any musical, dramatic, artistic, photographic or written presentation at the Festival without compensation to the registrant, author or creator of the work to promote the Festival and or LCS ministries. The original author or creator of any entry used retains copyright ownership.

### Copyrighted Material

The students, parents, and school leaders must be completely legal and ethical regarding copyrighted music, scripts, or any other original published or unpublished works. All Festival participants should follow these guidelines:

Never use digital or printed copies of music or scripts to avoid purchasing original materials. Downloading a song from YouTube does not give you the right to use the music. Never use software, sound files, video clips, quotes, or any other copyrighted work for your presentation without obtaining the copyright or explicit written permission from the publisher or creator. Always give the author or creator appropriate credit for all copyrighted materials used to create your festival entries.

Never use unpublished music or scripts without written permission from the author or creator of the work.

Splicing should only be done after obtaining the proper license or permission of the copyright owner(s).

Please note you do not need copyright permission to use a purchased soundtrack.

## Approved Instrument Lists

### Keyboards

(The festival will provide either a piano or keyboard for categories that require them)

Piano	Keyboard	Synthesizer
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### Woodwinds

Flute family	Oboe	Clarinet family
English Horn	Saxophone family	Bassoon

### Brass

Horn family	Trumpet family	Trombone family
Tuba	Baritone (t.c./b.c.)	Euphonium

### Strings

Violin	Viola	String Bass
Cello	Harp	

### Rhythm/Alternate Strings (Festival provides a direct box and an amplifier)

Electric Guitar	12-String Guitar	Acoustic Guitar
Bass Guitar		

### Percussion, Traditional

Drums (and cymbals)	Bongo	Cajon
Orchestra Bells	Congas	Djembe
Güiro	Hand Bells	Maracas
Marimba	Shakers	Sandpaper
Blocks	Tambourine	Timbales
Triangle	Wood Blocks	Xylophone
Vibraphone	Timpani (Kettle drums)	

A basic drum set is provided for some categories. See individual category rules for specifications.

Kick drum/single pedal	Snare	Two rack toms
Floor tom	Crash cymbal	Hi-hat cymbal
Ride cymbal		

Additional percussion accessories are permitted (double bass pedal, extra cymbals, etc.) but must be provided by the participant; setup and tear-down time limits apply.

### Other

Harmonica (Christian Band, Instrumental Ensemble, Contemporary, or Worship Team)

Electronic versions of approved instruments are allowed (except where category rules state otherwise) as long as the participant provides the necessary amplifiers and cords, and time limits are not exceeded.

For unconventional percussion entries, other items may be used as instruments. Unconventional instruments include but are not limited to buckets, trash cans, PVC pipes, sticks, etc. The participant must provide unconventional instruments; setup and tear-down time limits apply.

## Registration Categories and Divisions

### Academic Division

Math Olympics 3rd	Science Fair, Elem	Spelling Bee 3rd, 2 per school
Math Olympics 4th	Science Fair Life Sci, Middle	Spelling Bee 4th, 2 per school
Math Olympics 5th	Science Fair, Physical Sci, Middle	Spelling Bee 5th, 2 per school
Math Olympics 6th	Science Fair, Life Science, High	Spelling Bee 6th, 2 per school
Math Olympics 7th	Science Fair, Physical Science, High	Spelling Bee 7th, 2 per school
Math Olympics 8th	Geography Bee 5th-8th, 2 per school	Spelling Bee 8th, 2 per school
Math Olympics 9th		Spelling Bee 9th-12th, 2 per school
Math Olympics 10th		
Math Olympics 11th		
Math Olympics 12th		

### Writing Division

Writing: Short Story Elem	Writing: Book Chapter Elem	Writing: Flash Fiction Elem
Writing: Short Story Middle	Writing: Book Chapter Middle	Writing: Flash Fiction Middle
Writing: Short Story High	Writing: Book Chapter High	Writing: Flash Fiction High
Writing: First Person Essay Elem	Writing: Children's Lit Elem	Writing: Mini Saga Elem
Writing: First Person Essay Middle	Writing: Children's Lit Middle	Writing: Mini Saga Middle
Writing: First Person Essay High	Writing: Children's Lit High	Writing: Mini Saga High
Writing: Poetry Elem		
Writing: Poetry Middle		
Writing: Poetry High		

### Communication Division

Short Sermon Elem	Short Film Lower	Speech: Patriotic Elem
Short Sermon Middle	Short Film Upper	Speech: Patriotic Middle
Short Sermon High	Bible Memorization Elem	Speech: Poetry Elem
Spoken Word Elem	Bible Memorization Middle	Speech: Poetry Middle
Spoken Word Middle		
Spoken Word High		

## Visual Arts Division

3D: Sculpture and Ceramics Elem	2D: Drawing, Mono Elem	Graphic Design Elem
3D: Sculpture and Ceramics Middle	2D: Drawing, Mono Middle	Graphic Design Middle
3D: Sculpture and Ceramics High	2D: Drawing, Mono High	Graphic Design High
3D: Mixed Media Elem	2D: Drawing, Color Elem	Apparel Design Elem
3D: Mixed Media Middle	2D: Drawing, Color Middle	Apparel Design Middle
3D: Mixed Media High	2D: Drawing, Color High	Apparel Design High
3D: Fiber Art Elem	2D: Painting, Oil Elem	Photo Still Life Elem
3D: Fiber Art Middle	2D: Painting, Oil Middle	Photo Still Life Middle
3D: Fiber Art High	2D: Painting, Oil High	Photo Still Life High
	2D: Painting, Acrylic Elem	Photo Land & Arch Elem
	2D: Painting, Acrylic Middle	Photo Land & Arch Middle
	2D: Painting, Acrylic High	Photo Land & Arch High
	2D: Painting, Watercolor Elem	Photo People & Animals Elem
	2D: Painting, Watercolor Middle	Photo People & Animals Middle
	2D: Painting, Watercolor High	Photo People & Animals High
	2D: Mixed Media Elem	
	2D: Mixed Media Middle	
	2D: Mixed Media High	

## Dance Division

Urban Dance Solo Elem	Worship Dance Solo Elem	Step Troupe Lg Lower
Urban Dance Solo Middle	Worship Dance Solo Middle	Step Troupe Lg Upper
Urban Dance Solo High	Worship Dance Solo High	
Urban Dance Troupe Sm Lower	Worship Dance Troupe Sm Lower	
Urban Dance Troupe Sm Upper	Worship Dance Troupe Sm Upper	
Urban Dance Troupe Lg Lower	Worship Dance Troupe Lg Lower	
Urban Dance Troupe Lg Upper	Worship Dance Troupe Lg Upper	

## **Drama Division**

Drama Solo Elem  
Drama Solo Middle  
Drama Solo High  
Drama Ensemble Sm Lower  
Drama Ensemble Sm Upper  
Drama Ensemble Lg Lower  
Drama Ensemble Lg Upper  
Dramatized Quoting Solo Elem  
Dramatized Quoting Solo Middle  
Dramatized Quoting Solo High  
Dramatized Quoting Ens Lower  
Dramatized Quoting Ens Upper

Human Video Solo Elem  
Human Video Solo Middle  
Human Video Solo Upper  
Human Video Ensemble Sm Lower  
Human Video Ensemble Sm Upper  
Human Video Ensemble Lg Lower  
Human Video Ensemble Lg Upper

Musical Theater Solo Elem  
Musical Theater Solo Middle  
Musical Theater Solo High  
Musical Theatre Ensemble Sm Lower  
Musical Theatre Ensemble Sm Upper  
Musical Theatre Ensemble Lg Lower  
Musical Theatre Ensemble Lg Upper  
Readers Theater Group Lower  
Readers Theater Group Upper

## **Instrumental Division**

Music Production Lower  
Music Production Upper  
Piano Solo Elem  
Piano Solo Middle  
Piano Solo High  
Percussion Solo Elem

Percussion Solo Middle  
Percussion Solo High  
Percussion Ensemble Lower  
Percussion Ensemble Upper  
Instrument Solo Elem  
Instrument Solo Middle

Instrument Solo High  
Instrumental Ensemble Lower  
Instrumental Ensemble Upper  
Orchestra Ensemble Lower  
Orchestra Ensemble Upper

## **Vocal Division**

Worship Team Group Lower  
Worship Team Group Upper  
Rap Solo Elem  
Rap Solo Middle  
Rap Solo High  
Rap Group Lower  
Rap Group Upper  
Songwriting Lower  
Songwriting Upper

Vocal Solo, Female Elem  
Vocal Solo, Female Middle  
Vocal Solo, Female High  
Vocal Solo, Male Elem  
Vocal Solo, Male Middle  
Vocal Solo, Male High  
Vocal Ensemble Sm Lower  
Vocal Ensemble Sm Upper  
Vocal Ensemble Lg Lower  
Vocal Ensemble Lg Upper

Choir Lower  
Choir Upper  
Christian Band Group Lower  
Christian Band Group Upper



## Academic Division: Math Olympics

Read the General Information and General Rules.

### Grades 3-12

Each school may send an unlimited number of entries.

Each participant (3rd through 12th) will receive a separate test relative to their grade level. Curriculum-based problems are covered on each test and conform to the academic standards. In each grade level, problems will range from simple order of operation-type problems to complex word problems. Students are not expected to complete all the problems.

**Each school that enters should provide a qualified adult worker who may be used for the competition supervision during this time.** The competition will be conducted in a typical testing environment. A student will be disqualified and asked to leave for causing any unnecessary disruptions or talking to other students during the tests.

**Each student is responsible for providing his or her pencils and erasers.** Scratch paper will be provided. Elementary (Grades 3–5) and Middle School (Grades 6–8) students cannot use calculators or bring other items into the testing area.

Visitors are not permitted in the testing rooms during testing.

Math Olympics participants will not receive a scoresheet, but they will receive a certificate with a rating.

## Basic Math Rules for Grades 3–5

1. One test will be administered, and students will have 40 minutes to complete the test.
2. Upon completing the test, students are to turn the test over and sit quietly until dismissed. Students may reconsider any work prior to the end of the testing period.
3. All answers must be on the line indicated to receive credit.
4. Students are encouraged to answer questions they know first and, if time permits, return to more difficult questions.
5. A 10-minute warning will be given before the end of the testing time.
6. All tests will be collected at the end of the 40 minutes.
7. When directed to stop testing, students are to put pencils down and turn papers face down.
8. No partial credit will be given.
9. Absolutely no talking; students will be disqualified and asked to leave the testing room.
10. **NO CALCULATORS ARE ALLOWED FOR GRADES 3-5.**

## Basic Math Rules for Grades 6-8

1. One test will be administered, and students will have 50 minutes to complete the test.
2. Upon completing the test, students are to turn the test over and sit quietly until dismissed. Students may reconsider any work prior to the end of the testing period.
3. All answers must be on the line indicated to receive credit.
4. Students are encouraged to answer questions they know first and, if time permits, return to more difficult questions.
5. A 10-minute warning will be given before the end of the testing time.
6. All tests will be collected at the end of the 50 minutes.
7. When directed to stop testing, students are to put pencils down and turn papers face down.
8. No partial credit will be given.
9. Absolutely no talking; students will be disqualified and asked to leave the testing room.
10. **NO CALCULATORS ARE ALLOWED FOR GRADES 6-8.**

## Basic Math Rules for Grades 9-12

1. One test will be administered, and students will have 50 minutes to complete the test.
2. Upon completing the test, students are to turn the test over and sit quietly until dismissed. Students may reconsider any work prior to the end of the testing period.
3. All answers must be on the line indicated to receive credit.
4. Students are encouraged to answer questions they know first and, if time permits, return to more complex questions.
5. A 10-minute warning will be given before the end of the testing time.
6. All tests will be collected at the end of the 50 minutes.
7. When directed to stop testing, students are to put pencils down and turn papers face down.
8. No partial credit will be given.
9. Absolutely no talking; students will be disqualified and asked to leave the testing room.
10. **CALCULATORS MAY BE USED FOR GRADES 9-12 ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**
  - Students may use a scientific or graphing calculator during the math competition.
  - Students are NOT allowed to use the following calculators or devices:
    - a minicomputer
    - electronic writing pad or pen-input/stylus-driven device
    - pocket organizer
    - cell phone calculator
    - a calculator that has a QWERTY (typewriter-like) keypad
    - a calculator that uses an electrical outlet makes noise or has a paper tape
11. Grade-level tests will include the following areas of computation:
12. 9th Grade - All phases and concepts of Algebra I material
13. 10th Grade - All phases and concepts of Plane Geometry material
14. 11th Grade - All phases and concepts of Algebra I, II and Plane Geometry material
15. 12th Grade - All phases and concepts of Algebra I, II, Plane and Solid Geometry, Trigonometry material



## Academic Division: Science Fair

Read the General Information and General Rules.

Clarification: Entries will receive a 2-point rule violation per evaluator, per violation, if they do not follow the festival category rules, have missing or incomplete project elements, use the wrong formatting, submit their projects late, etc.

**Grades 3 - 5 (Non-Experimental Only)**

**Grades 6 - 12 (Experimental Life or Physical Sciences)**

The LCS Festival Science Fair is a competition designed to encourage elementary through high school students to refine and implement scientific principles found in creation. The purpose is to allow the students to exercise their critical reasoning and ability to express their thoughts filtered through the Holy Scriptures. Moreover, the students are not in competition with each other but instead are competing against standards set to measure each participant's work and ability to present a project with poise and articulate oral presentation.

### Types of Projects

#### Non-Experimental – Grades 3-5:

1. Model - an entry that shows how various parts work together to accomplish the purpose for which they were designed. It includes projects explaining how a manufactured item, such as the internal combustion engine works and how a created item, such as a plant leaf, functions.
2. Collection – an entry that classifies and displays items gathered from nature. It includes fossils, flowers, rock collections, etc.
3. Demonstration is an entry that explains a principle or law found in the physical creation or in mathematical realms, such as why objects appear to lose weight when placed underwater.

#### Experimental – Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12:

1. All MS/HS projects must follow the scientific method:
  - Identify the Problem.
  - Form a Hypothesis (a possible solution, “what if...”)
  - Do background research (books, periodicals, magazines, pamphlets, etc.).
  - Conduct an experiment (procedure to test the hypothesis).
  - Observe
  - Analyze the procedure (how it was done; what materials were used).
  - Record data (logbook)
  - Formulate a conclusion from the experiment answering the hypothesis.

## Experimental Life Science (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

Behavioral;

Microbiology;

Physiology;

Botany;

Zoology;

General Biology

## Experimental Physical Science (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

Physics;

Earth Space Science;

Engineering;

Chemistry;

Math and Computers;

General Science

## Science Project Requirements

### Project Design

1. Start by making several rough sketches, evaluating the arrangement of materials, lettering, etc., until you have your proposed plan for the display.
2. Make the design eye-catching and attractive to tell your problem's story and get the viewer's attention. However, avoid gaudy, splashy approaches to the design.
3. Make an easy-to-follow design to "shout" the message in a few seconds.
4. Lettering should be large and attractive (avoid hand lettering unless the student is talented/ artistic in that area).
5. Titles should be short and descriptive.
6. Use pictures, diagrams, graphs, and photographs when possible.
7. Color generalizations:
  - a. green and yellow shades suggest natural sciences.
  - b. red and blues, the technical and applied sciences.
  - c. blues and white suggest medicine.
  - d. Unique and creative display arrangements often enhance a project.
  - e. Do not "overdo" the design and take away from the project's message.

### Material

1. Standard Science Fair boards are available in various colors and are recommended.
2. Other materials for backboard displays are foam board, pegboard, and cardboard. All displays must be free-standing.
3. The project display should be attractive, creative, eye-catching, neat, and informative.

### Size

1. The exhibit display may not exceed 4 feet wide, 2 feet deep, and 5 feet high.
2. Those exceeding the limit will be penalized in points.

### Board Requirements

1. Experimental projects must include all of the following:
  - a. **Title:** The student may use his/her creative abilities to develop a catchy title. The title tells what the project will solve; it may be stated as a question.
  - b. **Abstract**
  - c. **Project:** A statement of the problem to be solved.
  - d. **Hypothesis:** An educated guess based on information gathered about a particular topic. It can be written using an 'if-then' statement such as: "if" magnets attract iron, "then" only those objects that contain iron will be attracted by the magnet.
  - e. **Method of Testing Hypothesis:** It should explain the procedure you will use to test your hypothesis.
  - f. **Results:** A brief explanation of the results obtained by the experiment.
  - g. **Conclusion:** A brief explanation of how the hypothesis was proven or not by the procedures followed by the experiment.
  - h. **Experimental Design:** This can be a drawing of different steps of the procedures, models of the experiment done, sample or collection of specimens, etc.
  - i. **Background Information:** The student will need to research the chosen topic. Credible internet sources, books, encyclopedias, computers, newspapers, magazines, interviews, and information obtained from organizations are resources that the student can use.
  - j. **Results:** It relates to the total amount of information obtained during the experiment. How data is recorded is very important. Record the data using charts, graphs, tables, pictographs, logs, photographs, written observations, or anecdotal records. The more data there is, the more accurate the conclusion will probably be. Experimenting just one time does not give sufficient information to draw a conclusion.

- k. **Conclusion:** Once the information and data have been analyzed, a conclusion can be drawn. The project is summarized in the conclusion, and evidence is given to support the original hypothesis and the Biblical principle or illustration. The conclusion should include a statement as to whether the hypothesis was verified or nullified. It should also include statements of what further experimentation could be done to broaden the scope of the problem considered or why results are inconclusive.
- l. **Written Report:** Reports for elementary students can be written by hand; the Upper Division grade reports must be typed (due to length).
  - i. **Elementary:**
    - 1. Each exhibit must include a written report.
    - 2. 150-200 words for 3rd
    - 3. 200-250 words for 4th
    - 4. 250-350 words for 5th
  - ii. **Middle School:**
    - 1. Each exhibit must include a detailed report, fully footnoted, with a bibliography. This report should give details of literary research done on the hypothesis.
    - 2. 350-500 words for 6th
    - 3. 500-800 words for 7th
    - 4. 800-1000 words for 8th
  - iii. **High School:**
    - 1. Same requirements as Middle School.
    - 2. 800 – 1200 words for grades 9-12
- 2. **Non-Experimental Projects**
  - a. **Title:** The student may use his/her creative abilities to develop a catchy title. The title tells what the project will solve; it may be stated as a question.
  - b. **Hypothesis:** An educated guess based on information gathered about a particular topic. It can be written using an 'if-then' statement such as: "If" magnets attract iron, "then" only those objects that contain iron will be attracted by the magnet.
  - c. **Conclusion:** A brief explanation of how the hypothesis was proven or not by the procedures followed by the experiment.
  - d. **Background Information:** The student will need to research the chosen topic. Credible internet sources, books, encyclopedias, computers, newspapers, magazines, interviews, and information obtained from organizations are resources that the student can use.
  - e. **Conclusion:** Once the information and data have been analyzed, a conclusion can be drawn. The project is summarized in the conclusion, and evidence is given to support the original hypothesis and the Biblical principle or illustration. The conclusion should include a statement as to whether the hypothesis was verified or nullified. It should also include statements of what further experimentation could be done to broaden the scope of the problem considered or why results are inconclusive.

## Logbook

1. A chronological record of the project's development should include who, what, when, where, why, and how of each day's work.
2. The logbook must be a part of the project display (on the board or the table).
3. The logbook is a journal of your experiment. As you begin your experiment, record the procedure in detail and write it out step-by-step, drawing and labeling any apparatus you use and explaining how all the variables are controlled.
4. Results are first formulated in your logbook.
5. Everything you do on your project goes in your logbook! From start to finish, it must be in your logbook. Keep the book neat and clean. It will be displayed with your project at any fair you attend.

## Biblical Reference

1. All exhibits must include a scripture reference. Some ideas are not explicitly mentioned in the Bible, but some verses develop principles that can be related to the project. The intent is to relate all science areas to the universe's Creator. Moreover, the exhibit and information must have Biblical application or illustration.
2. Application
  - a. Information that is usable in everyday life and relevant to the problem being considered.
3. Illustration
  - a. Explanatory example from Scripture that parallels the problem.

## Equipment

1. All exhibits requiring electricity must be designed for 110 volts. The ground plug (3-prong) must be used. Exhibitors must provide their own extension cords.
2. Gas/Water: No gas or water outlets will be provided.

3. Suitability for Exhibition: Dangerous/unsafe exhibits will not be permitted. The Fair officials reserve the right to remove any project deemed objectionable or hazardous.

### Credit

1. Your name, school, and grade must be in the lower right-hand corner of the back of your display. Acknowledge all help there.

### Oral Presentation

1. Students must be able to explain the project in technical terms to the judges and in non-technical language to the non-specialists. Students must be able to answer several general and specific questions.

### Project Assistance

1. The project will be the product of one student's work- **NO team projects**.
2. Students may seek help with typing and board construction.
3. Someone may also critique the student's methods.
4. The backboard design/layout must be the student's work.
5. Students must do 90% of the total work at all grade levels.
6. All help must be acknowledged in written form on the exhibit.

### Safety and Concerns

1. Live animals or plants are not permitted at the Science Fair. Animal and plant experiments may still be done but must be photographed step by step. The photographs, not the animals, are included in the project display. Students must not perform unnecessary or indiscriminate experiments on live animals when using animals for experimentation. Photographs of inhumane treatment will be rejected by the Fair officials and not permitted as part of the display.
2. Rockets: Fair officials will reject unsafe experimentation with rockets. The American Rocket Society has advised that experiments with rockets should be discouraged because of the dangers involved.
3. Projects involving temperatures in excess of 100 degrees C. (212F) must be adequately insulated from flammable surroundings with suitable insulation.
4. Electrical safety must be observed. No exposed switches, wires, or metal parts are permitted. All wiring and connections should conform to safety standards approved by electrical safety engineers/codes.
5. Any project that may constitute a hazard to the public will be rejected.

### Science Fair Judging

1. Non-experimental projects will be judged according to visual display, knowledge, verbal explanation, written report, and Biblical application.
2. Experimental projects will be evaluated according to creativity, scientific method, thoroughness, technical skill, difficulty level, neatness, and appearance.
3. Naturally, a more in-depth project, written report, and oral presentation are expected of students at each additional grade level.
4. The judging criteria are as close to the public system so those students may enter other Science Fairs.
5. Students will be required to be with their projects during judging.
6. The LCS Festival Science Fair is a public presentation, and students are asked to dress neatly and appropriately.



## Academic Division: Geography Bee

Read the General Information and General Rules.

### Grades 5 - 8

Geography Bee is a competition to stimulate and encourage the learning of geography for 5th – 8th grade students. Questions are designed to test the participant's knowledge of geography. The questions will cover names and placement of locations of geographical importance, identification of location of cultural and physical features and regions, the distribution and patterns of languages, relations, economic activities, population, political systems, physical phenomena, changes in places and areas through time, tools geographers use and all other aspects of geographical importance (students should study from geography and history textbooks and other sources of current geographic information). The Geography Bee will be conducted like a traditional overall spelling bee. Questions will be taken from National Geographic Geography Bee materials.

1. Each school may enter two contestants.
2. The decisions of the judges are final.
3. Participants must respond to questions within fifteen seconds.

Evaluation: The participant will be eliminated from the Bee after two incorrect responses. When the Bee is down to two contestants, they will compete in the Championship Round. This round consists of five questions. Both contestants will be asked a question simultaneously and have fifteen seconds to write their answers. The answers will be checked, and the contestant who correctly answered the most questions will be the champion. Championship rounds will continue until a winner is declared.



## Academic Division: Spelling Bee

Read the General Information and General Rules.

### Grades 3-8 (By Grade Level) and 9-12 (combined)

1. Two students from each grade (grades 3-8) may be selected to represent their school in the grade-level competitions.
2. Two high school students may be selected to represent their school in the combined grades category.
  - a. Each school can also submit one alternate per grade (3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) and one high school alternate. The alternate will be used to replace one of the two representatives in that grade who may need to be excused due to illness or family emergency.
  - b. Participants must be currently enrolled in the grade in which they are competing.
3. It is recommended that the school hold a qualifying Spelling Bee for each grade level prior to registration.
  - a. Classroom or School level Bees may be conducted in writing, orally, or by combining the two methods.
4. The LCS Festival Spelling Bee shall be an oral competition with elimination on a single-elimination basis in the traditional spelling bee manner.
5. Words shall be selected from the official word list. Words dictated will not be presented in the order they are written in the list.
6. Words shall be pronounced according to the diacritical markings in Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition, from which the pronouncer shall select the definition or definitions he/she gives. After the pronouncer gives the contestant a word, the contestant must pronounce the word before and after spelling it. Failure to do so shall result in elimination.
7. The contestant may request the pronouncer to repeat the word, define it, or use it in a sentence. The pronouncer shall grant all such requests until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably apparent to the contestant. Judges may disqualify any contestant who ignores a request to begin spelling.
8. Having started to spell a word, a contestant may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning, but in the retracing, there can be no change of letters and their sequence from those first articulated. If the spelling of letters or their sequence changes, the speller will be eliminated.
9. Upon missing the spelling word, a contestant immediately drops out of the contest. The next word the pronouncer dictates is given to the next contestant.
10. When the contestants are reduced to two, the elimination procedure changes. At that point, the pronouncer will stop the competition and state the new rules. When one contestant misspells a word, the other contestant shall be allowed to spell that exact word. If the second contestant spells that word correctly, plus the next word the pronouncer dictates, he/she shall be declared the champion.
11. If one of the last two contestants misspells a word and the other, after correcting the error, misspells the new word submitted to him/her, then the misspelled new word shall be referred to the first speller. If the first speller succeeds in correcting the error and correctly spells the next word on the pronouncer's list, he/she shall be declared the champion.
12. If both spellers misspell the same word, both shall continue in the contest and the one who first misspelled the word shall be given a new word to spell. The contest shall then continue under rules 9 and 10.
13. The Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition, shall serve as the final authority for spelling words in the state finals. If more than one spelling is listed for a word, any of these spellings will be accepted as correct if the word appears in boldface type and if it either matches the pronunciation and definition provided by the pronouncer or if it is clearly identified as being a standard variant of the word that the contestant has been asked to spell. Boldfaced spellings at other locations having archaic, obsolete, or regional labels that are different from those at the main entry will not be accepted as correct.

14. The student must request the pronouncer to indicate, either by defining the word or by explaining the homonyms in which the word is to be spelled.
15. Any question relating to the spelling of a word should be referred to the judges immediately. The deadline for making a grievance is before the contestant affected would have received his/her next word had he/she stayed in the contest. No grievance will be entertained after that word has been given to another speller. When only two spellers remain, a grievance must be made immediately, that is, before the second speller has started to spell the word given him/her, or, if both have misspelled the same word, before the correct spelling is given to the audience.
16. The judges are in complete control of the bee. Their decision shall be final on all questions.



## Writing Division

Grades 3-12

Read the General Information and General Rules.

Clarification: Entries will receive a 2-point rule violation per evaluator, per violation, if they do not follow the festival category rules, have a missing or incomplete title page, use the wrong formatting, exceed the category word requirement, submitted in wrong document format, etc.

All writing categories, except for Children's Literature, are individual categories and have an early deadline and online digital submission requirements. If the writing entries are not received by the deadline, they will not be judged. Do not bring these written entries to the festival, as they are evaluated prior to the festival.

Registrants in the Writing Division may submit entries in the following categories:

- Short Story
- First Person Essay
- Poetry
- Book Chapter
- Children's Literature
- Flash Fiction
- Mini Saga

## Short Story

1. The Short Story entry is for submitting either a fiction or non-fiction story with a clear Christian message.
2. All entries must be the original work of one student and not previously submitted in this festival.
3. Entries must be submitted typed in 12-point black Times New Roman or Arial font, double-spaced with at least 1-inch margins on all sides, and may not contain art, Word Art, borders, etc.
4. The submission must contain:
  - a. Elementary 150 - 500 words
  - b. Middle School 750 - 1500 words
  - c. Senior High 1500 - 1800 words
5. The story must communicate a Christian message.
6. Submissions must include a title page on page one of the document, the summary on page two, and the entry beginning on page three. The title page and summary may not be separate documents. The following information is required:
  - a. Title
  - b. Category
  - c. Author
  - d. Grade
  - e. School Name, City, State
  - f. Word Count

## Writing Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the Festival Committee, including the following:

- Selection
  - Christian message – presents a clear Christian message
  - Appropriate - appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  - Originality – unique use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
  - Title selection - interesting title
  - Style – keeps within the genre
- Communication
  - Use of language – proper usage and easily understood components of the English language.
  - Freshness of expression – avoidance of clichés; creating fresh and vivid imagery.
  - Development - strong incorporation of key components (plot, character development, and conflict.)
  - Flow of thought – connected ideas and flow
- Presentation
  - Sentence structure – proper placement of phrases and words
  - Grammar - correct verb tenses, usage of pronouns, etc.
  - Unique wording – excellent word selection; avoidance of repetitive or common vocabulary
  - Mechanics/spelling - correct word spelling
  - Punctuation - correct use of commas, semi-colons, apostrophes, etc.
  - Transitional elements - consistent flow of topics from paragraph to paragraph
  - Visual elements - coversheet, spacing, margins, and word count
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparing the piece.
  - Interpretation – overall ability of the writer to capture interest and impact the reader
  - Understandable concept – combination of the selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## First-Person Essay

1. A First personal essay entry is the art of writing an essay based on personal experience with a clear Christian message.
2. A First Person Essay must have a minimum and a maximum of words. Dialogue is allowed.
  - a. Elementary 150 - 300 words
  - b. Middle School 500 - 1200 words
  - c. Senior High 500 - 1200 words
3. All entries must be the original work of one student and not previously submitted in this festival.
4. Entries must be submitted typed in 12-point black Times New Roman or Arial font, double-spaced with at least 1-inch margins on all sides, and may not contain art, Word Art, borders, etc.
5. Each entry must include a title page on page one of the documents, with the entry beginning on page two. The title page may not be a separate document. The following information is required:
  - a. Title
  - b. Category
  - c. Author
  - d. Grade
  - e. School Name, City, State
  - f. Word Count

## Writing Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the Festival Committee, including the following:

- Selection
  - Christian message – presents a clear Christian message
  - Appropriate - appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  - Originality – unique use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
  - Title selection - interesting title
  - Style – keeps within the genre
- Communication
  - Use of language – proper usage and easily understood components of the English language.
  - Freshness of expression – avoidance of clichés; creating fresh and vivid imagery.
  - Development - strong incorporation of key components (plot, character development, and conflict.)
  - Flow of thought – connected ideas and flow
- Presentation
  - Sentence structure – proper placement of phrases and words
  - Grammar - correct verb tenses, usage of pronouns, etc.
  - Unique wording – excellent word selection; avoidance of repetitive or common vocabulary
  - Mechanics/spelling - correct word spelling
  - Punctuation - correct use of commas, semi-colons, apostrophes, etc.
  - Transitional elements - consistent flow of topics from paragraph to paragraph
  - Visual elements - coversheet, spacing, margins, and word count
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparing the piece.
  - Interpretation – overall ability of the writer to capture interest and impact the reader
  - Understandable concept – combination of the selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Poetry

1. A Poetry entry is the art of composing a piece of literature written in meter or verse with a clear Christian message.
2. A Poetry entry may be rhymed, unrhymed, metered, or free lines, with a maximum of 30 lines.
3. Entries must be the student's original work and not previously submitted to this festival.
4. Submissions must be submitted typed in 12-point black Times New Roman or Arial font, with at least 1-inch margins on all sides, and may not contain art, Word Art, borders, etc.
5. Poetry entries are not required to be double-spaced.
6. Entries must include a title page on page one of the document, with the entry beginning on page two. The title page may not be a separate document. The following information is required:
  - a. Title
  - b. Category
  - c. Author
  - d. Grade
  - e. School Name, City, State
  - f. Line Count

## Writing Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the Festival Committee, including the following:

- Selection
  - Christian message – presents a clear Christian message
  - Appropriate - appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  - Originality – unique use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
  - Title selection - interesting title
  - Style – keeps within the genre
- Communication
  - Use of language – proper usage and easily understood components of the English language.
  - Freshness of expression – avoidance of clichés; creating fresh and vivid imagery.
  - Development - strong incorporation of key components (plot, character development, and conflict.)
  - Flow of thought – connected ideas and flow
- Presentation
  - Sentence structure – proper placement of phrases and words
  - Grammar - correct verb tenses, usage of pronouns, etc.
  - Unique wording – excellent word selection; avoidance of repetitive or common vocabulary
  - Mechanics/spelling - correct word spelling
  - Punctuation - correct use of commas, semi-colons, apostrophes, etc.
  - Transitional elements - consistent flow of topics from paragraph to paragraph
  - Visual elements - coversheet, spacing, margins, and word count
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparing the piece.
  - Interpretation – overall ability of the writer to capture interest and impact the reader
  - Understandable concept – combination of the selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Book Chapter

1. The Book Chapter entry is for submitting the first chapter of a fiction or nonfiction book for a target audience of teens to adults with a clear Christian message.
2. Entries must be the original work of one student and not previously submitted to this festival.
3. Entries must be submitted typed in a 12-point black Times New Roman or Arial font, double-spaced with at least 1-inch margins on all sides, and may not contain art, WordArt, borders, etc.
4. The first chapter of the book submission must be 1,500–1,800 words.
5. The writer must include a book summary of no more than 150 words.
6. The chapter must communicate a Christian message.
7. Submissions must include a title page on page 1 of the document, the summary on page 2, and the entry beginning on page 3. The title page and summary may not be separate documents. The following information is required in the order given below:
  - a. Title
  - b. Category
  - c. Author
  - d. Grade
  - e. School Name, City, state
  - f. Word Count

## Writing Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the Festival Committee, including the following:

- Selection
  - Christian message – presents a clear Christian message
  - Appropriate - appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  - Originality – unique use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
  - Title selection - interesting title
  - Style – keeps within the genre
- Communication
  - Use of language – proper usage and easily understood components of the English language.
  - Freshness of expression – avoidance of clichés; creating fresh and vivid imagery.
  - Development - strong incorporation of key components (plot, character development, and conflict.)
  - Flow of thought – connected ideas and flow
- Presentation
  - Sentence structure – proper placement of phrases and words
  - Grammar - correct verb tenses, usage of pronouns, etc.
  - Unique wording – excellent word selection; avoidance of repetitive or common vocabulary
  - Mechanics/spelling - correct word spelling
  - Punctuation - correct use of commas, semi-colons, apostrophes, etc.
  - Transitional elements - consistent flow of topics from paragraph to paragraph
  - Visual elements - coversheet, spacing, margins, and word count
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparing the piece.
  - Interpretation – overall ability of the writer to capture interest and impact the reader
  - Understandable concept – combination of the selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Children's Literature

1. Children's Literature is the art of writing and illustrating an entire children's book with a target audience of a toddler or early reader (first to third grades) with age-appropriate words and illustrations with a clear Christian message.
2. One to ten eligible students may create the Children's Literature entry.
3. The entire entry must be the original work of the student(s), including illustrations, and may not be adapted from another's concept or previously submitted to this festival.
4. Illustrations may be drawings, paintings, or full-color computer-generated graphics produced by illustrator software. Clip art is not acceptable.
5. The entry must be read like a book; participants may not submit a manuscript with separate illustrations.
6. The creator(s) are not required to attend the festival. However, the registration form must be completed and the appropriate fees paid.
7. Submissions may not be more than 800 words in length.
8. The children's book must communicate a Christian message.
9. Children's literature must be printed and assembled in book format and submitted to the LCS Festival on the morning of the first day of the festival by the designated time after the school festival coordinator checks in. Submission time will be available when schedule is announced.
10. Each entry must include a title page at the beginning of the book with the following information in the order given below:
  - a. Title
  - b. Category
  - c. Author(s)
  - d. Grade(s)
  - e. Illustrator(s)
  - f. School Name, City, State
  - g. Explanation of medium (how the illustrations were created)
  - h. Word Count

## Writing Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the Festival Committee, including the following:

- Selection
  - Christian message – presents a clear Christian message
  - Appropriate - appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  - Originality – unique use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
  - Title selection - interesting title
  - Style – keeps within the genre
- Communication
  - Use of language – proper usage and easily understood components of the English language.
  - Freshness of expression – avoidance of clichés; creating fresh and vivid imagery.
  - Development - strong incorporation of key components (plot, character development, and conflict.)
  - Flow of thought – connected ideas and flow
- Presentation
  - Sentence structure – proper placement of phrases and words
  - Grammar - correct verb tenses, usage of pronouns, etc.
  - Unique wording – excellent word selection; avoidance of repetitive or common vocabulary
  - Mechanics/spelling - correct word spelling
  - Punctuation - correct use of commas, semi-colons, apostrophes, etc.
  - Transitional elements - consistent flow of topics from paragraph to paragraph
  - Visual elements - coversheet, spacing, margins, and word count
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparing the piece.
  - Interpretation – overall ability of the writer to capture interest and impact the reader
  - Understandable concept – combination of the selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Flash Fiction

1. Flash Fiction is the art of writing a compelling fictional tale in a few words with a clear Christian message.
2. Flash Fiction entries are bound by a 600-word maximum. Dialogue is allowed.
3. Entries must be the student's original work and not previously submitted to this festival.
4. Submissions must be submitted typed in a 12-point black Times New Roman or Arial font, double-spaced with at least 1-inch margins on all sides, and may not contain art, WordArt, borders, etc.
5. Each entry must include a title page on page 1 of the document, with the entry beginning on page 2. The title page may not be a separate document. The following information is required in the order given below:
  - a. Title
  - b. Category
  - c. Author
  - d. Grade
  - e. School name, City, State
  - f. Word Count

## Writing Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the Festival Committee, including the following:

- Selection
  - Christian message – presents a clear Christian message
  - Appropriate - appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  - Originality – unique use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
  - Title selection - interesting title
  - Style – keeps within the genre
- Communication
  - Use of language – proper usage and easily understood components of the English language.
  - Freshness of expression – avoidance of clichés; creating fresh and vivid imagery.
  - Development - strong incorporation of key components (plot, character development, and conflict.)
  - Flow of thought – connected ideas and flow
- Presentation
  - Sentence structure – proper placement of phrases and words
  - Grammar - correct verb tenses, usage of pronouns, etc.
  - Unique wording – excellent word selection; avoidance of repetitive or common vocabulary
  - Mechanics/spelling - correct word spelling
  - Punctuation - correct use of commas, semi-colons, apostrophes, etc.
  - Transitional elements - consistent flow of topics from paragraph to paragraph
  - Visual elements - coversheet, spacing, margins, and word count
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparing the piece.
  - Interpretation – overall ability of the writer to capture interest and impact the reader
  - Understandable concept – combination of the selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Mini Saga

1. A Mini Saga is a piece of writing with precisely 50 words, not including the title, which can have up to fifteen words. **A Mini Saga is not a poem, uses complete sentences,** and must tell a complete story with a beginning, middle, and end with a clear Christian message.
2. Entries must be the original work of one eligible student.
3. Submissions must be typed in a 12-point black Times New Roman or Arial font, with at least 1-inch margins on all sides, and may not contain art, WordArt, borders, etc.
4. The entry must include a title page on page 1 of the document, with the Mini Saga on page 2. **Do not include your title on page 2 with your writing or it will be tallied with your word count.** The title page may not be a separate document. The following information is required as listed in the order given below:
  - a. Title
  - b. Category
  - c. Author
  - d. Grade
  - e. School Name, City, State

## Writing Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the Festival Committee, including the following:

- Selection
  - Christian message – presents a clear Christian message
  - Appropriate - appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  - Originality – unique use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
  - Title selection - interesting title
  - Style – keeps within the genre
- Communication
  - Use of language – proper usage and easily understood components of the English language.
  - Freshness of expression – avoidance of clichés; creating fresh and vivid imagery.
  - Development - strong incorporation of key components (plot, character development, and conflict.)
  - Flow of thought – connected ideas and flow
- Presentation
  - Sentence structure – proper placement of phrases and words
  - Grammar - correct verb tenses, usage of pronouns, etc.
  - Unique wording – excellent word selection; avoidance of repetitive or common vocabulary
  - Mechanics/spelling - correct word spelling
  - Punctuation - correct use of commas, semi-colons, apostrophes, etc.
  - Transitional elements - consistent flow of topics from paragraph to paragraph
  - Visual elements - coversheet, spacing, margins, and word count
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparing the piece.
  - Interpretation – overall ability of the writer to capture interest and impact the reader
  - Understandable concept – combination of the selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.



## Communication Division

Grades 3-8 only

Read the General Information and General Rules.

Clarification: Entries will receive a 2-point rule violation per evaluator, per violation, if they do not follow the festival category rules, have a missing or incomplete introduction, exceed the category time limit, etc.

Registrants in the Communication Division may submit entries in the following categories:

- Short Sermon
- Spoken Word
- Short Film
- Bible Memorization
- Speech –Patriotic
- Speech – Poetry

## Short Sermon

1. An entry in Short Sermon is the art of verbally communicating a biblical message that includes Scripture quotations or readings from one eligible student.
2. Scripture references must be cited with all scripture quotations or readings.
3. Short Sermon entries have a time limit of 5 minutes. There are 60 seconds for set up and 60 seconds for tear down.
4. All presentations must be in harmony with the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God. A copy of the Statement of Fundamental Truths is available online at [www.lcstoday.org](http://www.lcstoday.org).
5. All entries must be original material, not just a memorization of someone else's sermon. Participants can use illustrations, personal testimonies, statistics, stories, etc. Sources must be cited.
6. Participants are allowed to use notes. The sermon does not need to be memorized.
7. Participants may only use a Bible, notes, a podium, and handheld visual aids. Small hand-held props are permitted in Short Sermon entries. Props are limited to what a person can carry by hand into the presentation space. The festival provides only the podium.
8. All aspects of the sermon must take place within the stage's boundaries, including props.
9. Wearing costumes, costume makeup, or masks of any kind is not permitted.
10. The use of audio or audiovisual devices is not permitted. Neither flammable nor liquid visual aids are permitted.
11. All presentations must be given with due reverence for God and His people and must not be a cynical or satirical portrayal of any form of the ministry.
12. Introduction: Before beginning the presentation, participants must state their name, title, school, **and scripture references**. Do not make other comments, such as testimony or justification. This does not count toward set up or presentation time limit.

## Short Sermon Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the LCS Festival, including the following:

- Selection
  - Christian message – presents a solid Biblical perspective with ministry effectiveness in mind.
  - Appropriate—appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
- Communication
  - Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
  - Posture – effective stance appropriate for public speaking, stage presence, and proper breath support.
  - Expression/body language – use of nonverbal communication (i.e., facial expressions, hand and arm gestures) that enhance sermon delivery.
  - Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence, and comfort.
  - Timing – the ability to move from point to point smoothly and with a sense of pacing; effective use of allotted time spent on opening, main points, and conclusion
  - Vocal clarity – appropriate volume for the audience; proper pronunciation of words with appropriate tone and inflection.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Use of Scripture – Scriptural text/quotations foundational to overall presentation; reference(s) cited.
  - Structure of content – effective, logical organization of thoughts communicated for understanding, believability, and remembrance.
  - Opening/conclusion – using a quote, question, illustration, or story to capture the audience's interest in the sermon's topic; the conclusion recaps the main points and calls for a final response.
  - Transitions - statements that bridge the main points of the sermon.
  - Use of illustrations – incorporates vivid images, examples, testimony, statistics, or quotations as reinforcements to sermon topic with proper recognition of sources.
  - Elicit response – demonstrates the sermon's purpose with a question for a response in the conclusion.
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
  - Relevance – appropriate and relevant application.
  - Understandable concept – the sermon selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Spoken Word

1. An entry in Spoken Word is for the art and ministry of communicating poetry composed explicitly for performance before an audience.
2. Spoken Word entries must be entirely the original work of one eligible student.
3. There is a time limit of 3 minutes for all Spoken Word entries. Time begins when the participant does or says anything to indicate the beginning of the presentation after the introductory comments.
4. The entire presentation must be memorized.
5. The use of additional media is not permitted.
6. Live or recorded music or singing by the student is not permitted.
7. Costumes, costume make-up, masks, or props of any kind are not permitted.
8. Introduction: Before beginning the presentation, participants must state their name, title, and school. Do not make other comments such as testimony or justification. This does not count toward set up or presentation time limit.

## Spoken Word Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the LCS Festival, including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—appropriate for this festival in subject and taste
  - Originality - unique use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Development - full development of ideas and expressions throughout the piece
  - Flow of thought - connectivity and progression of ideas
  - Fresh imagery/word play - figures of speech, sound devices, and linguistic effects achieved through various patterns and variations in diction
  - Sound devices - assonance, alliteration, consonance, rhyme, repetition, etc.
  - Diction - choice and arrangement of words
  - Freshness of expression - avoidance of clichés; creating fresh and vivid imagery
  - Writing Style - command of lyrical, narrative, or dramatic conventions
- Presentation/Technique
  - Timing/delivery - demonstrates an understanding/execution of pacing, movement, and tone
  - Voice - unique presence of the creator of the piece; not necessarily the speaker in the piece but a recognizable presence of a distinctive author behind and inside everything in the work
  - Clarity/style - demonstrates a distinctive mode of expression
  - Posture/Facial expression - use of nonverbal communication to enhance the impact and performance of the piece
  - Rhythm/musicality - audible experience of the written work including sound devices, rhythm and the way sound compliments the meaning and intent of the piece
  - Stage presence - command of stage; control, confidence and comfort
  - Energy - appropriate physical, emotional and audible connectivity to the subject and theme of the piece
  - Movement—if used, movement is intentional and enhances content
- Effectiveness
  - Evident connection - overall impact of the piece combining writing, communication and performance
  - Evident message - understandable concept; evident impact
  - Preparation - an apparent effort of time and thought in all elements of preparation

## Short Film

All Short Film entries have an early submission deadline. **Each entry must submit an unlisted YouTube link by the early submission deadline. No other form of the Short Film will be accepted.**

1. Creating a Short Film is the art and process of producing a film containing a combination of visual images and sounds to effectively communicate a mood, emotion, and message by one to ten eligible students.
2. In the Short Film category, the following genres are accepted:
  - Animation
  - Comedy
  - Drama
  - Documentary
  - Music Video
  - Fiction/Live Action
3. **A digital credit line must be added to the end of the entry. The credit line must include the following information as listed in the order given below:**
  - a. Participant(s)
  - b. Grade(s)
  - c. Category
  - d. Video Title
  - e. Explanation of medium (explain how the piece was created in technical terms by stating processes, equipment used, etc.)
  - f. School Name, City, state
4. Entries in Short Film have a time limit of 5 minutes.
5. The film's creator(s)/producer(s) must meet the age or grade requirements and register as participants. Adults may not serve as the primary director(s) or editor(s) of the film being submitted by the participant(s). However, those appearing in the film or supporting the production (actors, grips, lighting, boom operator, etc.) do not need to meet age requirements nor register as participants.
6. Copyright policy: The League of Christian Schools and its subsidiaries are not responsible for assuring that all material included in students' film productions complies with existing copyright laws. The students, parents, and leaders must be completely legal and ethical in their conduct regarding copyrighted material used to create an entry for the LCSF. Students must obtain either copyrights or explicit written permission to use all software, graphics, parodies, recorded music and/or sound files. See "Copyrighted Material" under General Rules for additional guidelines.
7. Credits must be included and count toward the overall time limit of 5 minutes.
8. Any script or storyline must be the original work of the participant(s) and not previously submitted in this festival.
9. The participant(s) is not required to attend the festival in person.
10. Model Release Policy: The League of Christian Schools and its subsidiaries are not responsible for assuring that all of the human subjects included in students' film productions are in compliance with existing model release laws. It is the responsibility of the registrants, authors, creators, students, parents, and schools to be completely legal and ethical in their conduct regarding the use of people's images and likenesses used to create an entry for the festival. Students must obtain either a model release or explicit written permission (not required to present to evaluators) from each actor or appropriate parental consent.

## Short Film Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the LCS Festival, including the following:

- Selection
  - Christian message – should present a clear Christian message; overtly “religious” subject, symbols, or themes are not required.
  - Appropriate—appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  - Script development – fresh and creative script; not tiring or cliché.
- Communication
  - Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
  - Verbal communication – dialogue/narrative flows naturally and communicates effectively while moving the story and message forward.
  - Body communication – actors effectively and believably communicate with body language and facial expression.
  - Directing – choice of camera shots, angles, and movement that help communicate mood and emotion.
  - Music – contributes to the mood and helps communicate the message.
  - Imagery – the use of color, reflections, shadows, shapes, or icon images effectively enhance the mood and message.
- Presentation/Technique

- Hook – opening sequence immediately grabs the attention of the audience.
- Proper framing – camera shots have proper headroom and nose room.
- Appropriate shot – appropriate shots are used for the specific situation (wide, medium, close-ups, pans, zooms, dolly, crane, etc.).
- The line of action – shots do not cross the line of action.
- Lighting – effective use of light; develops mood and nuance.
- Balanced lighting – consistent lighting with appropriate balance between foreground and background.
- Color balance – appropriate color/temperature light is used for the specific situation.
- Flow and pacing – frames flow together into a cohesive story; edits do not cause the story to be jumpy or to drag.
- Storytelling – shots and the sequence of editing selected for effective storytelling.
- Transparent editing – edits are unnoticeable and do not detract from the story
- Color correction – shots in the same scene are similar in color balance, contrast, and appearance.
- Open/close – title and credits are appropriate for the production.
- Audio mix – balanced and clearly understood audio; voices and voice-overs can be clearly heard and understood above the music.
- F/X and Foley – natural and appropriate use of audio and visual effects
- Wardrobe – wardrobe selections are appropriate for the roles played by the actors as well as scene setting.
- Setting and set – setting and location for the story being told is appropriate and the set is believable. The set should carry both dimensions and depth.
- Effectiveness
  - Message effectiveness – evokes a powerful viewer response appropriate to the films message
  - Production effectiveness – an overall cohesiveness of story, casting, production, style and genre.
  - Acting effectiveness – the performance of the actors is effective overall (i.e., were they believable?)
  - Introduction – time, setting, and main characters are quickly revealed.
  - Conflict – conflict clearly established.
  - Plot development – develops towards a climax.
  - Climax – believable plot reaches a climax that resolves the conflict.
  - Resolve – the story ties up loose ends. If the audience is left hanging, it is intended. A hanging end should not be the result of poor scripting.

## Bible Memorization

1. Presentations are from the approved list of scriptures available from your school's Festival Coordinator.
2. All Bible Memorization presentations have a limit of 5 minutes.
3. All presentations must be memorized (notes and prompters are not permitted).
4. **Participants shall provide 3 printed copies of their speech to the judges.**
5. Students should communicate the message of their selection through their vocal and facial expressions, including speech techniques described on the judging sheet.
6. Bodily movements and gestures are allowed but not required and must not be overdone.
7. The presentation may not be dramatized.
8. Costumes and props are not allowed.
9. **Eye contact should be with the audience, not the judges.**
10. Introduction: Before beginning the presentation, participants must state their name, school, scripture reference, **and brief summary of their selection.** Do not make other comments such as testimony or justification. This does not count towards a set-up or presentation time limit.

## Bible Memorization Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the LCS Festival, including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—the selected portion should provide adequate opportunity for the actor to explore and effectively interpret the words and actions of multiple characters in a range of settings, appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty. The scripture portion used is substantial enough for full setting, character, and story development.
  - Originality – use of inventive and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Posture – use of whole body to enhance character.
  - Expression – nonverbal communication (i.e. facial expressions, gestures, posture) that enhances the mood of the presentation.
  - Character development – a full realization of who the character(s) become(s) throughout the presentation.
  - Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort.
  - Vocal clarity – appropriate volume; proper pronunciation of words with effective tone and inflection.
  - Memorization—word perfect recitation of the selected scripture portion
- Presentation/Technique
  - Timing/dialogue – understanding and excellent execution of the pacing of the scene and the delivery of the lines
  - Delivery – strong delivery of lines using proper pronunciation of words to help develop an effective mood and tone
  - Actor's focus – to whom or where is the actor speaking? Ability to remain “in character”; if multiple characters are being played by a single actor, transitions should be clear, distinctive and creative.
  - Characterization – believable representation of human motives, thoughts, actions and emotions.
  - Action – natural movement of the actor(s) that is both original and creative enhancing the idea of the presentation.
  - Blocking – proper staging; movement with purpose; staging that best allows full view of actor's face and body placement with appropriate spacing to provide a clean and uncluttered stage picture.
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
  - Interpretation – a conclusive voice stating the overall message.
  - Understandable concept – the combination of scripture, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Speech - Patriotic Oration

1. This category is for patriotic material written by or presented by famous persons.
2. No poems are allowed.
3. Presentations are from the approved list of famous speeches from your school's Festival Coordinator. Alternatively, a student may use another patriotic speech from a notable historical figure.
4. All Speech Patriotic Oration presentations have a limit of 5 minutes.
5. All presentations must be memorized (notes and prompts are not permitted).
6. **Participants shall provide three printed copies of their speeches to the judges.**
7. Students should communicate the message of their selection through their vocal and facial expressions, including speech techniques described on the judging sheet.
8. Bodily movements and gestures are allowed but not required and must not be overdone.
9. The presentation may not be dramatized.
10. Costumes and props are not allowed.
11. **Eye contact should be with the audience, not the judges.**
12. Introduction: Before beginning the presentation, participants must state their name, title, and school. Do not make other comments such as testimony or justification. This does not count toward set up or presentation time limit.

## Speech Patriotic Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the LCS Festival, including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—the selected portion should provide adequate opportunity for the actor to explore and effectively interpret the words and actions of multiple characters in a range of settings, appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty. The scripture portion used is substantial enough for full setting, character, and story development.
  - Originality – use of inventive and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Posture – use of whole body to enhance character.
  - Expression – nonverbal communication (i.e. facial expressions, gestures, posture) that enhances the mood of the presentation.
  - Character development – a full realization of who the character(s) become(s) throughout the presentation.
  - Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort.
  - Vocal clarity – appropriate volume; proper pronunciation of words with effective tone and inflection.
  - Memorization—word perfect recitation of the selected scripture portion
- Presentation/Technique
  - Timing/dialogue – understanding and excellent execution of the pacing of the scene and the delivery of the lines
  - Delivery – strong delivery of lines using proper pronunciation of words to help develop an effective mood and tone
  - Actor's focus – to whom or where is the actor speaking? Ability to remain “in character”; if multiple characters are being played by a single actor, transitions should be clear, distinctive and creative.
  - Characterization – believable representation of human motives, thoughts, actions and emotions.
  - Action – natural movement of the actor(s) that is both original and creative enhancing the idea of the presentation.
  - Blocking – proper staging; movement with purpose; staging that best allows full view of actor's face and body placement with appropriate spacing to provide a clean and uncluttered stage picture.
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
  - Interpretation – a conclusive voice stating the overall message.
  - Understandable concept – the combination of scripture, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Speech – Poetry

1. This category is for poetry written by a well-known author.
2. For 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, presentations are from the approved list of poems available from your school's Festival Coordinator.
3. All Poetry Speeches have a limit of 5 minutes.
4. All presentations must be memorized (notes and prompters are not permitted).
5. **Participants shall provide 3 printed copies of their speech to the judges.**
6. Students should communicate the message of their selection through their vocal and facial expressions, including speech techniques described on the judging sheet.
7. Bodily movements and gestures are allowed but not required and must not be overdone. The presentation may not be dramatized. Costumes and props are not allowed.
8. **Eye contact should be with the audience, not the judges.**
9. Introduction: Before beginning the presentation, participants must state their name, title, and school. Do not make other comments such as testimony or justification. This does not count toward set up or presentation time limit.

## Speech Poetry Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by LCS Festival including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—the selected portion should provide adequate opportunity for the actor to explore and effectively interpret the words and actions of multiple characters in a range of settings, appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty. The scripture portion used is substantial enough for full setting, character, and story development.
  - Originality – use of inventive and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Posture – use of whole body to enhance character.
  - Expression – nonverbal communication (i.e. facial expressions, gestures, posture) that enhances the mood of the presentation.
  - Character development – a full realization of who the character(s) become(s) throughout the presentation.
  - Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort.
  - Vocal clarity – appropriate volume; proper pronunciation of words with effective tone and inflection.
  - Memorization—word perfect recitation of the selected scripture portion
- Presentation/Technique
  - Timing/dialogue – understanding and excellent execution of the pacing of the scene and the delivery of the lines
  - Delivery – strong delivery of lines using proper pronunciation of words to help develop an effective mood and tone
  - Actor's focus – to whom or where is the actor speaking? Ability to remain “in character”; if multiple characters are being played by a single actor, transitions should be clear, distinctive and creative.
  - Characterization – believable representation of human motives, thoughts, actions and emotions.
  - Action – natural movement of the actor(s) that is both original and creative enhancing the idea of the presentation.
  - Blocking – proper staging; movement with purpose; staging that best allows full view of actor's face and body placement with appropriate spacing to provide a clean and uncluttered stage picture.
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
  - Interpretation – a conclusive voice stating the overall message.
  - Understandable concept – the combination of scripture, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.



## Visual Arts Division

Read the General Information and General Rules.

Clarification: Entries will receive a 2-point rule violation per evaluator, per violation, if they do not follow the festival category rules, have a missing or incomplete art form, register in the incorrect category, etc.

### 3rd-12th Grade

Registrants in the Art Division may submit entries in the following categories:

#### Three-Dimensional Art

3D Mixed Media  
Sculpture and Ceramics  
Fiber Art

#### Two-Dimensional Art

Drawing Monochromatic  
Drawing Color  
2D Mixed Media  
Painting Oil  
Painting Acrylic  
Painting Watercolor

#### Photography

Still Life  
Landscape and Architecture  
People and Animals

#### Graphic Design

#### Apparel Design

See the art submission deadlines & formats in the Important Details and Information section of this handbook.

Art Division entries must be picked up on the morning of the second day of the festival. Pick up details to be announced.

## General Art Division Rules

1. Art entries must be entirely the original work of one eligible student and not previously submitted.
2. As art is evaluated on creativity and originality, multiple entries from class projects are discouraged.
3. Each 2D & 3D Art Division entry must have the **official LCS Art Entry Form** attached to the entry upon delivery. The official art entry form may be found in the shared festival coordinator folder. If the form is not present, is missing any information, or is not legible upon delivery to the art gallery, the entry will receive a 2-point rule violation per evaluator. The page must include the following information:
  - Participant
  - Category
  - Designation of medium (state the materials used to create the piece; visual art entries only)
  - Explanation of medium (explain how the piece was created in technical terms by stating equipment used, process, etc.)
  - School Name, City, and State
4. Only the Official Entry Form is required. An essay or story explaining the piece's message or theme is not allowed. The entry form should be placed under or near the free-standing 3D entries. Attaching a photo of the 3D piece to the form is recommended to help match the forms with the art.
5. If set up or assembly is required for the display of Art Division entries, **it must be completed by the student. If a student is absent from the festival, another school representative may set it up. Each entry is only allowed 2 minutes for set up.**
6. The overall size (including mounting and matting) of any entry in the Art Division must be no smaller than 4 by 6 inches and no larger than 32 by 32 inches (except for the Three-Dimensional category).
7. **All 2D artwork not on canvas must be both mounted and matted.**
8. Mounting other than the artboard (matte board or foam core) is prohibited. Glass, wood, plastic, etc., are not permitted as framing (except for three-dimensional categories).
9. We do not provide electricity for art division entries. If an art division entry requires electricity, it must be battery-powered and provided by the participant.
10. Weapons are not allowed to be submitted as art in the festival.
11. All visual art entries must be submitted on one panel. Diptych art entries are not permitted.
12. Model Release Policy: The League of Christian Schools and its subsidiaries are not responsible for assuring that all human subjects included in students' art comply with existing model release laws. The registrants, authors, creators, students, parents, and schools must be completely legal and ethical in their conduct regarding the use of people's images and likenesses used to create an entry for the festival. Students must obtain either a model release or explicit written permission (not required to present to evaluators) from each actor or appropriate parental consent.
13. **Clarification: Graphic Design is expected to make good use of typography and layout choices whereas art categories such as painting and drawing should not include text.**
14. **The Festival reserves the right to charge a fee or not accept any artwork that is submitted without being fully dried. Do not deliver wet artwork, as this creates storage challenges and damages other artwork.**

### Matting and Mounting Details

- **Visual Art, Two-dimensional entries and Three-Dimensional entries created on paper must be mounted** (the paper must have a backing with a more rigid surface, like foamboard) Entries on stretched canvas are considered mounted already. Mounting allows entries to sit flat on the table and to be stacked. It also acts as a protective covering for itself and other artwork.
- **Visual Art, Two-dimensional entries and Three-Dimensional entries created on paper must be matted.** Matting/Framing other than the matte board is not allowed. Artwork on stretched canvas is not required to be matted. Matting acts as a protective frame over the front outer edges of the artwork creating a professional appearance and also allowing the 2D artwork to be stacked without damage to itself or other artwork.
- **Artwork cannot exceed the size requirements once it is mounted and matted**, so leave room for the matting when selecting your media.

## Visual Art, Three-Dimensional General Rules

Visual Art, Three-dimensional entries are defined as a sculpture that can be viewed from all sides or a work that simulates the effect of depth or the illusion of a third dimension.

In the Visual Art, Three-Dimensional category, the following categories are accepted:

3D Mixed Media

Sculpture and Ceramics

Fiber Art

Entries do not have to be overtly “religious” in subject or theme.

Mounting is not required for 3D entries.

Stand-alone fashion design entries are not accommodated in this festival.

**LCS Festival Art forms are required.**

The overall size may be no smaller than 6 inches by 6 inches by 6 inches and no larger than 32 inches by 32 inches by 32 inches.

## Sculpture and Ceramics

The following media shall be acceptable:

- Wood – carved or whittled
- Plaster – armatures, molds, or casting
- Clay: greenware, modeling, Sculpey, air-dried, homemade, terra cotta, versa, oven baked, self-hardening, polymer, model magic, oil-based Sculpey, air-dried, homemade, terra cotta, versa, oven baked, self-hardening, polymer, model magic, oil-based, or homemade.
- Stoneware/Soap – crea-stone, carved, casting, soapstone or bar soap of any kind
- Metal – wire, metal punch, art emboss, color foil, nuts, bolts, and screws.
- Paper - paper mâché or paper pulp
- Pre-formed molds, a potter's wheel, or free formed.
- Work may be stained, glazed, dipped, painted, or unpainted.
- Work may be fired or unfired.
- The use of a mold is allowed if the student has made the mold himself.
- Relief or freestanding are allowed.

## Visual Art Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the LCS Festival, including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—appropriate difficulty level; appropriate for this festival in subject and taste; overtly “religious” subject, symbols, or theme are not required.
  - Fresh concept – demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Range of appeal – relevant and appealing to multiple audiences.
  - Originality – displays individualistic style; avoids overused ideas or concepts.
  - Initial impression – meaning and general intent readily grasped; immediate visual impact.
  - Visual impact – imagery that is visually compelling; forceful, subtle, or vivid.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Neatness – clean appearance; free of smudges.
  - Flow – a natural flow of image(s) for the viewer's eye.
  - Organization – apparent focal point; organization of compositional elements.
  - Consistency – consistent use of medium.
  - Proportion – appropriate use of space.
  - Use of color/values – consistent and visually enhancing color and/or gradation.
  - Technique – proper use of the medium.
  - Finished presentation – completeness; 2D entries must be mounted and matted; overall size, including mounting/matting, can be no smaller than 4 by 6 inches and no larger than 32 by 32 inches; 3D entries may be no larger than 32 x 32 x 32 inches.
- Effectiveness
  - Effectiveness - produces an overall effective visual impression or impact
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
  - Understandable concept – the combination of subject selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## 3D Mixed Media

- This category applies to any work that contains more than THREE clearly visible media where any element is lifted from the flat surface (3D). AT LEAST FOUR MEDIA SEEN AS PART OF THE DESIGN ARE REQUIRED. Hidden glue, pencil sketches, the paper it is on, etc do not count as one of the four media. This category should be created with intent.
- Mixed media entries should NOT fit into any other category.
- Entries may be on paper, board, canvas, or any surface that does not exceed 32 x 32 inches.

## Visual Art Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the LCS Festival, including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—appropriate difficulty level; appropriate for this festival in subject and taste; overtly “religious” subject, symbols, or theme are not required.
  - Fresh concept – demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Range of appeal – relevant and appealing to multiple audiences.
  - Originality – displays individualistic style; avoids overused ideas or concepts.
  - Initial impression – meaning and general intent readily grasped; immediate visual impact.
  - Visual impact – imagery that is visually compelling; forceful, subtle, or vivid.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Neatness – clean appearance; free of smudges.
  - Flow – a natural flow of image(s) for the viewer’s eye.
  - Organization – apparent focal point; organization of compositional elements.
  - Consistency – consistent use of medium.
  - Proportion – appropriate use of space.
  - Use of color/values – consistent and visually enhancing color and/or gradation.
  - Technique – proper use of the medium.
  - Finished presentation – completeness; 2D entries must be mounted and matted; overall size, including mounting/matting, can be no smaller than 4 by 6 inches and no larger than 32 by 32 inches; 3D entries may be no larger than 32 x 32 x 32 inches.
- Effectiveness
  - Effectiveness - produces an overall effective visual impression or impact
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
  - Understandable concept – the combination of subject selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Fiber Art

- Fiber Art entries are defined as textile art created using natural or synthetic fibers such as fabric, yarn, or thread.
- In the Fiber Art Category, mediums accepted include, but are not limited to: Basketry, Crochet, Embroidery Knitting, Macrame, Needlework, Quilting, Rug Making, Weaving, etc.
  - Entries do not have to be overly religious in subject or theme.
  - Fiber Art entries may be mounted, but it is not required. Entries, including mounting, may be no smaller than 6 by 6 by 6 inches and no larger than 32 by 32 by 32 inches.
  - Fiber Art entry concepts must be entirely the original work of 1 eligible student. They cannot be recreations of a nonoriginal art piece from a pattern or any form of instructional art kit.

## Visual Art Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the LCS Festival, including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—appropriate difficulty level; appropriate for this festival in subject and taste; overtly “religious” subject, symbols, or theme are not required.
  - Fresh concept – demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Range of appeal – relevant and appealing to multiple audiences.
  - Originality – displays individualistic style; avoids overused ideas or concepts.
  - Initial impression – meaning and general intent readily grasped; immediate visual impact.
  - Visual impact – imagery that is visually compelling; forceful, subtle, or vivid.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Neatness – clean appearance; free of smudges.
  - Flow – a natural flow of image(s) for the viewer’s eye.
  - Organization – apparent focal point; organization of compositional elements.
  - Consistency – consistent use of medium.
  - Proportion – appropriate use of space.
  - Use of color/values – consistent and visually enhancing color and/or gradation.
  - Technique – proper use of the medium.
  - Finished presentation – completeness; 2D entries must be mounted and matted; overall size, including mounting/matting, can be no smaller than 4 by 6 inches and no larger than 32 by 32 inches; 3D entries may be no larger than 32 x 32 x 32 inches.
- Effectiveness
  - Effectiveness - produces an overall effective visual impression or impact
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
  - Understandable concept – the combination of subject selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Visual Art, Two-Dimensional General Rules

In the Visual Art, Two-Dimensional category, the following categories are accepted:

Drawing Monochromatic

Painting Oil

2D Mixed Media

Drawing Color

Painting Acrylic

Painting Watercolor

All 2D Art has an early physical submission requirement. See the Important Information and Details Section of the handbook.

Entries do not have to be overtly “religious” in subject or theme.

**Clarification: Graphic Design is expected to make good use of typography and layout choices whereas art categories such as painting and drawing should not include text.**

### Matting and Mounting Details

- **Visual Art, Two-dimensional entries and Three-Dimensional entries created on paper must be mounted** (the paper must have a backing with a more rigid surface, like foamboard) Entries on stretched canvas are considered mounted already. Mounting allows entries to sit flat on the table and to be stacked. It also acts as a protective covering for itself and other artwork.
- **Visual Art, Two-dimensional entries and Three-Dimensional entries created on paper must be matted.** Matting/Framing other than the matte board is not allowed. Artwork on stretched canvas is not required to be matted. Matting acts as a protective frame over the front outer edges of the artwork creating a professional appearance and also allowing the 2D artwork to be stacked without damage to itself or other artwork.
- **Artwork cannot exceed the size requirements once it is mounted and matted**, so leave room for the matting when selecting your media.

## Drawing - Monochromatic

- Monochromatic drawing is done in only one color.
- The student may use one or several of the following:
  - Pencil – graphite or colored only
  - Charcoal – sticks or pencils
  - Wash drawing (painting with diluted ink)
  - Ink – black or colored (pens, calligraphy or felt tip)
  - Pastels – soft, oil, pastel pencils or chalk, or conte crayons
  - Markers – washable or permanent
  - Another drawing medium not listed above
- Charcoal drawings must be sealed with a protective spray or be covered with clear acetate. (Caution: When using spray fixative, be sure to follow the manufacturer’s instructions on the label for safe use.)

## Visual Art Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the LCS Festival, including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—appropriate difficulty level; appropriate for this festival in subject and taste; overtly “religious” subject, symbols, or theme are not required.
  - Fresh concept – demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Range of appeal – relevant and appealing to multiple audiences.
  - Originality – displays individualistic style; avoids overused ideas or concepts.
  - Initial impression – meaning and general intent readily grasped; immediate visual impact.
  - Visual impact – imagery that is visually compelling; forceful, subtle, or vivid.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Neatness – clean appearance; free of smudges.
  - Flow – a natural flow of image(s) for the viewer’s eye.
  - Organization – apparent focal point; organization of compositional elements.
  - Consistency – consistent use of medium.
  - Proportion – appropriate use of space.
  - Use of color/values – consistent and visually enhancing color and/or gradation.
  - Technique – proper use of the medium.
  - Finished presentation – completeness; 2D entries must be mounted and matted; overall size, including mounting/matting, can be no smaller than 4 by 6 inches and no larger than 32 by 32 inches; 3D entries may be no larger than 32 x 32 x 32 inches.
- Effectiveness
  - Effectiveness - produces an overall effective visual impression or impact
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
  - Understandable concept – the combination of subject selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Drawing - Color

- The following media shall be acceptable:
  - Charcoal – sticks or pencils
  - Pencil – graphite or colored only
  - Ink – black or colored (pens, calligraphy or felt tip)
  - Pastels – soft, oil, pastel pencils or chalk, or conte crayons
  - Markers – washable or permanent
- Any weight or color drawing paper may be used. Any surface is acceptable, not to exceed 32 x 32 inches.

## Visual Art Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the LCS Festival, including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—appropriate difficulty level; appropriate for this festival in subject and taste; overtly “religious” subject, symbols, or theme are not required.
  - Fresh concept – demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Range of appeal – relevant and appealing to multiple audiences.
  - Originality – displays individualistic style; avoids overused ideas or concepts.
  - Initial impression – meaning and general intent readily grasped; immediate visual impact.
  - Visual impact – imagery that is visually compelling; forceful, subtle, or vivid.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Neatness – clean appearance; free of smudges.
  - Flow – a natural flow of image(s) for the viewer’s eye.
  - Organization – apparent focal point; organization of compositional elements.
  - Consistency – consistent use of medium.
  - Proportion – appropriate use of space.
  - Use of color/values – consistent and visually enhancing color and/or gradation.
  - Technique – proper use of the medium.
  - Finished presentation – completeness; 2D entries must be mounted and matted; overall size, including mounting/matting, can be no smaller than 4 by 6 inches and no larger than 32 by 32 inches; 3D entries may be no larger than 32 x 32 x 32 inches.
- Effectiveness
  - Effectiveness - produces an overall effective visual impression or impact
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
  - Understandable concept – the combination of subject selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Painting – Oil

- The media shall be oil.
- Entries may be on canvas or paper or any surface that does not exceed 32 x 32 inches.
- Entries painted on canvas do not need to be matted.

## Visual Art Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the LCS Festival, including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—appropriate difficulty level; appropriate for this festival in subject and taste; overtly “religious” subject, symbols, or theme are not required.
  - Fresh concept – demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Range of appeal – relevant and appealing to multiple audiences.
  - Originality – displays individualistic style; avoids overused ideas or concepts.
  - Initial impression – meaning and general intent readily grasped; immediate visual impact.
  - Visual impact – imagery that is visually compelling; forceful, subtle, or vivid.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Neatness – clean appearance; free of smudges.
  - Flow – a natural flow of image(s) for the viewer’s eye.
  - Organization – apparent focal point; organization of compositional elements.
  - Consistency – consistent use of medium.
  - Proportion – appropriate use of space.
  - Use of color/values – consistent and visually enhancing color and/or gradation.
  - Technique – proper use of the medium.
  - Finished presentation – completeness; 2D entries must be mounted and matted; overall size, including mounting/matting, can be no smaller than 4 by 6 inches and no larger than 32 by 32 inches; 3D entries may be no larger than 32 x 32 x 32 inches.
- Effectiveness
  - Effectiveness - produces an overall effective visual impression or impact
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
  - Understandable concept – the combination of subject selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Painting – Acrylic

- The media shall be either oil, acrylic, gouche, or tempera paint (i.e.: pans, cakes, tubes, liquid, or powder)
- Entries may be on canvas or paper or any surface that does not exceed 32 x 32 inches.
- Entries painted on canvas do not need to be matted.

## Visual Art Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the LCS Festival, including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—appropriate difficulty level; appropriate for this festival in subject and taste; overtly “religious” subject, symbols, or theme are not required.
  - Fresh concept – demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Range of appeal – relevant and appealing to multiple audiences.
  - Originality – displays individualistic style; avoids overused ideas or concepts.
  - Initial impression – meaning and general intent readily grasped; immediate visual impact.
  - Visual impact – imagery that is visually compelling; forceful, subtle, or vivid.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Neatness – clean appearance; free of smudges.
  - Flow – a natural flow of image(s) for the viewer’s eye.
  - Organization – apparent focal point; organization of compositional elements.
  - Consistency – consistent use of medium.
  - Proportion – appropriate use of space.
  - Use of color/values – consistent and visually enhancing color and/or gradation.
  - Technique – proper use of the medium.
  - Finished presentation – completeness; 2D entries must be mounted and matted; overall size, including mounting/matting, can be no smaller than 4 by 6 inches and no larger than 32 by 32 inches; 3D entries may be no larger than 32 x 32 x 32 inches.
- Effectiveness
  - Effectiveness - produces an overall effective visual impression or impact
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
  - Understandable concept – the combination of subject selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Painting – Watercolor

- Paints used must technically qualify as watercolors. (i.e.: pans, cakes, tubes, or watercolor pencils)
- Translucent and opaque techniques are acceptable.
- Watercolor entries may include very light accents with a pen/ink, but should primarily be purely watercolor.
- Entries with tissue paper, glue, glitter, excessive ink marks, etc are not meant for this category. Entries with these elements will be considered miscategorized and receive a rule violation. These elements should be in the mixed media category and include more than three visible media.
- Entries may be on paper or watercolor paper and may not exceed 32 x 32 inches.

## Visual Art Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the LCS Festival, including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—appropriate difficulty level; appropriate for this festival in subject and taste; overtly “religious” subject, symbols, or theme are not required.
  - Fresh concept – demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Range of appeal – relevant and appealing to multiple audiences.
  - Originality – displays individualistic style; avoids overused ideas or concepts.
  - Initial impression – meaning and general intent readily grasped; immediate visual impact.
  - Visual impact – imagery that is visually compelling; forceful, subtle, or vivid.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Neatness – clean appearance; free of smudges.
  - Flow – a natural flow of image(s) for the viewer’s eye.
  - Organization – apparent focal point; organization of compositional elements.
  - Consistency – consistent use of medium.
  - Proportion – appropriate use of space.
  - Use of color/values – consistent and visually enhancing color and/or gradation.
  - Technique – proper use of the medium.
  - Finished presentation – completeness; 2D entries must be mounted and matted; overall size, including mounting/matting, can be no smaller than 4 by 6 inches and no larger than 32 by 32 inches; 3D entries may be no larger than 32 x 32 x 32 inches.
- Effectiveness
  - Effectiveness - produces an overall effective visual impression or impact
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
  - Understandable concept – the combination of subject selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## 2D Mixed Media

- This category applies to any work that **contains more than THREE clearly visible media** such as watercolor, India ink, and chalk, or oil paints and sand, or oil pastels and tempera paint, etc., where all media remain on one flat surface (2D). The paper/canvas does not count as a media. **AT LEAST FOUR MEDIA SEEN AS PART OF THE DESIGN ARE REQUIRED.** Hidden glue, pencil sketches, the paper it is on, etc do not count as one of the four media. **This category should be created with intent.**
- Mixed media entries should NOT fit into any other category.
- Entries may be on paper, board or canvas, or any surface that does not exceed 32 x 32 inches.

## Visual Art Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the LCS Festival, including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—appropriate difficulty level; appropriate for this festival in subject and taste; overtly “religious” subject, symbols, or theme are not required.
  - Fresh concept – demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Range of appeal – relevant and appealing to multiple audiences.
  - Originality – displays individualistic style; avoids overused ideas or concepts.
  - Initial impression – meaning and general intent readily grasped; immediate visual impact.
  - Visual impact – imagery that is visually compelling; forceful, subtle, or vivid.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Neatness – clean appearance; free of smudges.
  - Flow – a natural flow of image(s) for the viewer’s eye.
  - Organization – apparent focal point; organization of compositional elements.
  - Consistency – consistent use of medium.
  - Proportion – appropriate use of space.
  - Use of color/values – consistent and visually enhancing color and/or gradation.
  - Technique – proper use of the medium.
  - Finished presentation – completeness; 2D entries must be mounted and matted; overall size, including mounting/matting, can be no smaller than 4 by 6 inches and no larger than 32 by 32 inches; 3D entries may be no larger than 32 x 32 x 32 inches.
- Effectiveness
  - Effectiveness - produces an overall effective visual impression or impact
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
  - Understandable concept – the combination of subject selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Graphic Design

In the Graphic Design category, the following submissions are accepted

- Digital Ad
- Billboard
- Brochure
- Bulletin/Program
- Business Card
- Flyer
- Logo
- Newsletter
- Poster
- Web Page
- Print Ad
- Banner
- Pod Cast/Album Cover Art
- Social Media Graphics
- 3D Renders
- other

**Graphic Design is an early submission digital category.** See the Important Information and Details section of the handbook.

Entries in the Graphic Design category may take any of the following forms: finished piece, full-color drawing, or comprehensive full-color dummy or proof. Digital imagery and computer illustrations are appropriate for this category but must be high resolution (at least 300 dpi at 100 percent of output size). Students should submit the best representation of their design.

Entries do not have to be overtly religious in subject or theme.

**Clarification: Graphic Design is expected to make good use of typography and layout choices whereas art categories such as painting and drawing should not include text.**

## Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the LCS Festival, including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—appropriate difficulty level; appropriate for this festival in subject and taste; overtly “religious” subject, symbols, or theme are not required.
  - Fresh concept – demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Range of appeal – relevant and appealing to multiple audiences.
  - Originality – displays individualistic style; avoids overused ideas or concepts.
  - Initial impression – meaning and general intent readily grasped; immediate visual impact.
  - Visual impact – imagery that is visually compelling; forceful, subtle, or vivid.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Neatness – clean appearance; free of smudges.
  - Flow – a natural flow of image(s) for the viewer’s eye.
  - Organization – apparent focal point; organization of compositional elements.
  - Consistency – consistent use of medium.
  - Proportion – appropriate use of space.
  - Use of color/values – consistent and visually enhancing color and/or gradation.
  - Technique – proper use of the medium.
  - Finished presentation – completeness;
- Effectiveness
  - Effectiveness - produces an overall effective visual impression or impact
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
  - Understandable concept – the combination of subject selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Apparel Design

In the Apparel Design category, the following submissions are accepted:

- Bags & Backpacks
- Beanies & Caps
- Short Sleeve T-shirt
- Long Sleeve T-shirt
- Sweatshirts & Hoodie

Apparel Design entries may take any of the following forms: digital full-color drawing, or comprehensive full-color computer mockup.

**Apparel Design is an early submission digital category.** See the Important Information and Details section of the handbook. Printed Apparels are not accepted at this festival.

Entries do not have to be overtly religious in subject or theme.

Apparel Design entries may incorporate purchased design elements such as fonts, vectors, and illustrations as part of the entry's original design.

Apparel Designs should take into consideration the color of the apparel, placement of the design, and ease of viewing while being worn.

Apparel Designs are expected to make good use of typography and layout choices whereas art categories such as painting and drawing should not include text.

## Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the LCS Festival, including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—appropriate difficulty level; appropriate for this festival in subject and taste; overtly “religious” subject, symbols, or theme are not required.
  - Fresh concept – demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Range of appeal – relevant and appealing to multiple audiences.
  - Originality – displays individualistic style; avoids overused ideas or concepts.
  - Initial impression – meaning and general intent readily grasped; immediate visual impact.
  - Visual impact – imagery that is visually compelling; forceful, subtle, or vivid.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Neatness – clean appearance; free of smudges.
  - Flow – a natural flow of image(s) for the viewer’s eye.
  - Organization – apparent focal point; organization of compositional elements.
  - Consistency – consistent use of medium.
  - Proportion – appropriate use of space.
  - Use of color/values – consistent and visually enhancing color and/or gradation.
  - Technique – proper use of the medium.
  - Finished presentation – completeness;
- Effectiveness
  - Effectiveness - produces an overall effective visual impression or impact
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
  - Understandable concept – the combination of subject selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Photography

Photography is a digital early submission category. See the Important Information and Details section of the handbook.

In Photography, the following categories are accepted using digital cameras and mobile phone cameras:

- Photography Landscape and Architecture
- Photography People and Animals
- Photography Still Life

### Photography – Still Life

1. The photograph may be color or black and white of a still life, macro photography, or design.
2. Each entry should consist of one photograph only.
3. Digital Alterations: All photographs should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization will be disqualified. Acceptable are adjustments to color, contrast, brightness and sharpness; removal of dust and scratches; cropping; black and white conversions; and use of HDMI (high dynamic range imaging), where multiple exposures of the same scene are combined for a greater tonal range.

### Photography – Landscape and Architecture

1. The photograph may be color or black and white with landscape or architecture as the primary subject.
2. Animals or people may be permitted in the background but should not draw attention as a primary subject.
3. Digital Alterations: Acceptable artistic alterations are adjustments to color, contrast, brightness and sharpness; removal of dust and scratches; cropping; black and white conversions; and use of HDMI (high dynamic range imaging), where multiple exposures of the same scene are combined for a greater tonal range.
4. Other acceptable artistic alterations are selecting objects/subjects within a picture or selecting the whole picture to apply the use of artistic digital filters and effects. Examples of artistic filters and effects are watercolor, neon glow, posterizing, stained glass, and others which do not show the scene in its originality.
5. The addition, duplication, deletion or moving of objects in the photos is also acceptable.

### Photography – People and Animals

1. The photograph may be color or black and white with people or animals as the primary subject.
2. Landscape or architecture may be permitted in the background but should not draw attention as a primary subject.
3. Each entry should consist of one photograph only.
4. Digital Alterations: All photographs should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization will be disqualified. Acceptable are adjustments to color, contrast, brightness and sharpness; removal of dust and scratches; cropping; black and white conversions; and use of HDMI (high dynamic range imaging), where multiple exposures of the same scene are combined for a greater tonal range. Not acceptable are photo composites (combination of two or more photos, not of the same scene); the addition, duplication, deletion or moving of objects in the photos; or the use of artistic digital filters and effects. Examples of artistic filters and effects are watercolor, neon glow, posterizing, stained glass, and others which do not show the scene in its originality.

### Photography Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by LCS Festival including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival in subject and taste; overtly “religious” subject, symbols, or theme are not required.
  - Fresh concept – demonstrates a fresh approach
  - Style – keeps with genre (traditional or digital)
- Communication
  - Range of appeal – relevant and appealing to multiple audiences
  - Originality – displays an individualistic style; avoids overused ideas or concepts.
  - Initial impression – meaning and general intent readily grasped, immediate visual impact.
  - Visual impact – imagery that is visually compelling; forceful, subtle, or vivid.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Elements of design – incorporation of shape, line, pattern, texture, space, framing, size, angle, and cropping.
  - Flow – a natural flow of image(s) for viewer’s eye.
  - Organization – apparent focal point; organization of compositional elements.
  - Lighting – effective use of light; develops mood and nuance.

- Consistency – consistent use of medium.
- Proportion – appropriate use of space.
- Use of color/contrast – black and white reveals contrast; color is clear and appropriate for image.
- Technique – proper use of the medium.
- Effectiveness
  - Effectiveness - produces an overall effective visual impression or impact
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparation.
  - Understandable concept – the combination of subject selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.



## Dance Division

3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade

Read the General Information and General Rules.

**Clarification: Entries will receive a 2-point rule violation per evaluator, per violation, if they do not follow the festival category rules, have a missing or incomplete introduction, immodest costume, exceed the category time limit, etc.**

Registrants in the Dance Division may submit entries in the following categories:

- Worship Dance Solo, Troupe Small, Troupe Large
- Urban Solo, Troupe Small, Troupe Large
- Step Troupe Large

Entries in the Dance Division must be presented in the accepted genre defined as follows:

- Step: A contemporary form of dance characterized by incorporating percussive sounds and movements.
- Urban: Also known as “street dance,” incorporating various rhythms, techniques, and hip-hop skills.
- Ballet: (Worship Dance) A classical dance form characterized by formally precise steps and poses. A basic vocabulary of recognized ballet techniques is used as criteria for evaluating entries in the ballet genre.
- Contemporary: (Worship Dance) An expressive style of dance that combines elements of several dance genres including modern, jazz, lyrical, and classical ballet. Contemporary dance may be performed to many different styles of music.

## Dance Division General Rules

1. A Dance division entry is for the art and ministry of communicating a story or message and expressively and worshipfully interpreting music using recognized dance techniques
2. Troupe Small consists of 2-4 students and Troupe Large consists of 5-10 students.
3. There is a time limit of **2 minutes minimum and 4 minutes maximum. Time violations will only be assessed if the entry is shorter than 2 minutes or longer than 4 minutes.**
4. The musical track that accompanies a Dance entry may or may not contain lyrics. However, mouthing lyrics/lip-synching is not permitted. **Spoken words may be present in Step or Urban entries but must not be predominant.**
5. Live accompaniment is not permitted.
6. Modest attire must be worn. Clothing must be appropriate for effective interpretation, intended audience, and a worshipful atmosphere. Low-cut tops, backless shirts, tight apparel, short shorts, extremely baggy pants, and **see-through skirts without leggings are never acceptable.**
7. Dancers may choose to wear or not to wear shoes. Ballet slippers, paws, or jazz shoes are acceptable. **Regular socks are not suggested as footwear for dance, but they will not be denied. Note: We cannot guarantee that every venue will have the correct flooring conducive to point technique.**
8. The Fine Arts Festival holds a high standard and **does not permit suggestive movements, music, or attire.** Any movement, music, or attire that is deemed inappropriate may receive either Selection or Effectiveness point deductions or rule violations.
9. The use of percussion instruments is not permitted.
10. The use of streamers, ribbons, banners, or flags is permitted but must not become the focal point of the presentation at the expense of recognized and legitimate dance techniques. **No other props are permitted.**
11. The use of a director during the presentation is not permitted.
12. All dance entries are evaluated based on the criteria for the category entered. Dances must demonstrate specific skills, movements, and elements of the chosen style.

13. The splicing of up to three songs is allowed but not required. Entries may have more than three splicings as long as there are three songs at maximum. Voiceovers and sound effects do not count towards the three-song limit. Please see General Rules for "Copyrighted Materials."
14. Introduction: Before beginning the presentation, participants must state their name, school, all song titles, artists/composers/arrangers, if known. Do not make other comments, such as testimony or justification. This does not count toward set up or presentation time limit.

## Step Or Urban Dance Evaluation Criteria

- Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the LCS Festival, including the following:
- Selection
  - Appropriate—appropriate for this festival; appropriate attire for the genre with ministry effectiveness in mind
  - Style—movement compliments the music
  - Creativity - use of style or combination of original hip-hop movement
- Communication
  - Expression—use of both facial expression and body language
  - Choreography—use of levels, group work, variety of movements to support dance style
  - Staging—use of formations (with correct spacing); use of creative transitions and movement from one formation to another; seamless transitions
- Presentation/Technique
  - Body placement—isolations and fluidity, angles in tutting
  - Body control and strength—demonstrates proper support from core to deliver intentional movement; energy evident in all movements throughout presentation; energy levels should parallel energy of music.
  - Musicality—execution of hip hop movements using rhythmic variations; accents beats and sounds in music through movement
  - Execution of technical skill—proper execution of hip-hop technical elements (freezes/stalls, tutting, tricks)
  - Difficulty—incorporation of challenging movements and/or skills (jumps, freezes/stalls, partner works, and floor work), footwork, and variety of styles
  - Group execution/uniformity—use of all dancers throughout entirety of troupe routine
  - Synchronization—precision of arm and body placement; group timing with the music
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry - evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation - an apparent effort of thought and time in preparing the selection; memorization
  - Stage presence and projection—ability to connect with audience during performance (includes genuine expression, emotion, and energy)
  - Overall effect - the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Worship Dance – Classical, Ballet and Contemporary Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by LCS Festival including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate attire for genre with ministry effectiveness in mind
  - Style—compliments the music, keeps with genre
  - Originality – use of original and creative movement to create artistic effect.
- Communication
  - Expression—use of both facial expression and body language
  - Choreography—use of levels, group work, and variety of movements to support dance style.
  - Staging—use of formations (with correct spacing); use of creative transitions and movement from one formation to another; seamless transitions
- Presentation/Technique
  - Alignment—proper lines according to arms and feet positions, legs, and body composition
  - Artistry—connection and interpretation of song
  - Execution of technical skill—proper execution of technical elements and movements (turns, leaps, jumps, kicks, extensions, and floor work) Includes basic fundamentals (posture, turnout, initiation of movement, and control)
  - Difficulty—incorporation of challenging movements and/or skills (leaps, turns, kicks, extensions, and floor work)
  - Group execution—uniformity (use of all dancers throughout entirety of troupe routine)
  - Synchronization—precision of arm and body placement; group timing with the music
  - Musicality—execution of movements throughout the routine, complementing the beats and rhythm of the music.
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparing the selection; memorization
  - Stage presence and projection—ability to connect with audience during performance (includes genuine expression, emotion, and energy)
  - Overall effect – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.



## Drama Division

3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Read the General Information and General Rules.

Clarification: Entries will receive a 2-point rule violation per evaluator, per violation, if they do not follow the festival category rules, have a missing or incomplete introduction, exceed the category time limit, etc.

Registrants in the Drama Division may submit entries in the following categories:

- Drama Solo
- Drama Ensemble, Small or Large
- Dramatized Quoting Solo
- Dramatized Quoting Ensemble Large
- Human Video Solo
- Human Video Ensemble, Small or Large
- Musical Theater Solo
- Musical Theatre Ensemble, **Small** or Large
- Readers Theater, Ensemble Large

## Drama

1. A Drama Ensemble/Solo presentation is the art of telling a culturally relevant story through verbal communication and action.
2. Drama Ensemble, Small, entries may consist of two to four eligible students. Drama Ensemble, Large, entries may consist of five to ten eligible students.
3. A time limit of 5 minutes is allowed for each drama entry. There are 90 seconds for setup and 90 seconds for teardown.
4. Drama entries do not have to be original, but originality is encouraged.
5. Drama entries must creatively and effectively interpret the annual theme.
6. The entire presentation must be memorized.
7. No recorded or electronic sound effects are allowed. Neither soundtracks nor live background music is allowed.
8. All aspects of the drama must take place within the boundaries of the stage.
9. Chairs may be used as props. However, standing on chairs is not allowed and results in disqualification. The only chairs allowed are the chairs available on-site in the presentation room. Participants and groups may not bring their own chairs.
10. Props are allowed. Props are limited to what presenters can carry by hand into the presentation space and set or struck within the allowed setup and teardown times. Neither flammable nor liquid props are permitted.
11. Costumes are permitted in Drama entries.
12. Neither masks nor costume makeup is allowed.

## Drama Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by LCS Festival including the following:

- Selection
  - Christian message – presents a clear Christian message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
  - Appropriate—appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  - Theme development – annual theme creatively woven throughout presentation.
  - Originality – use of inventive and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Posture – use of whole body to enhance character.
  - Expression – nonverbal communication (i.e. facial expressions, gestures, posture) that enhances the mood of the presentation.
  - Character development – a full realization of who the character(s) become(s) throughout the presentation.
  - Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort.
  - Vocal clarity – appropriate volume; proper pronunciation of words with effective tone and inflection.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Timing/dialogue – understanding and excellent execution of the pacing of the scene and the delivery of the lines
  - Delivery – strong delivery of lines using proper pronunciation of words to help develop an effective mood and tone of the line.
  - Actor's focus – to whom or where is the actor speaking? Ability to remain “in character”; if multiple characters are being played by a single actor, transitions should be clear, distinctive and creative.
  - Characterization – believable representation of human motives, thoughts, actions and emotions.
  - Action – natural movement of the actor(s) that is both original and creative enhancing the idea of the presentation.
  - Blocking – proper staging; movement with purpose; staging that best allows full view of actors' face and body placement with appropriate spacing to provide a clean and uncluttered stage picture.
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
  - Interpretation – a conclusive voice stating the overall message.
  - Memorization – strong knowledge of the lines and action of the piece.
  - Understandable concept – the combination of script selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Dramatized Quoting

The category is open to Upper Level (grades 6-12) to advance to districts.

1. Dramatized Quoting is the art of telling a story through verbal communication and action by the direct quote of a scripture portion of the Bible.
2. Dramatized Quoting Solo consists of one participant. Dramatized Quoting Ensemble entries consist of two to ten eligible students.
3. A time limit of 5 minutes is allowed for Dramatized Quoting entries. There are 90 seconds for setup and 90 seconds for tear down.
4. Selections are to be made from scripture portions only. The selection used must be memorized, presented from consecutive verses or in full context and continuity (not abridged), and quoted words perfectly. The version of the Bible used is the student's choice.
5. Three typed copies of the selection must be presented to the evaluators at the assigned presentation time. Typed selections must be in black Arial or Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced, and include complete version, book, chapter, and verse references.
6. Participants must introduce their presentations by stating the work or the Bible version, book, chapter, and verses used. Introductory remarks do not count toward the overall time limit.
7. All aspects of the drama must occur within the stage's boundaries.
8. Chairs may be used as props. However, standing on chairs is not allowed and may result in disqualification. The only chairs allowed are the chairs available on-site in the presentation room. Participants may not bring their own chairs to the festival.
9. Props are allowed. Props are limited to what presenters can carry by hand into the presentation space and set or struck within the allowed setup and teardown times. Neither flammable nor liquid props are permitted.
10. Costumes are permitted.
11. Neither masks nor costume make up is allowed.
12. Introduction: Before beginning the presentation, participants must state their title, school, and selection. Do not make other comments such as testimony or justification. This does not count towards a set-up or presentation time limit.

## Dramatized Quoting Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by LCS Festival including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—the selected portion should provide adequate opportunity for the actor to explore and effectively interpret the words and actions of multiple characters in a range of settings, appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty. The scripture portion used is substantial enough for full setting, character, and story development.
  - Originality – use of inventive and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Posture – use of whole body to enhance character.
  - Expression – nonverbal communication (i.e. facial expressions, gestures, posture) that enhances the mood of the presentation.
  - Character development – a full realization of who the character(s) become(s) throughout the presentation.
  - Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort.
  - Vocal clarity – appropriate volume; proper pronunciation of words with effective tone and inflection.
  - Memorization—word perfect recitation of the selected scripture portion
- Presentation/Technique
  - Timing/dialogue – understanding and excellent execution of the pacing of the scene and the delivery of the lines
  - Delivery – strong delivery of lines using proper pronunciation of words to help develop an effective mood and tone
  - Actor's focus – to whom or where is the actor speaking? Ability to remain “in character”; if multiple characters are being played by a single actor, transitions should be clear, distinctive and creative.
  - Characterization – believable representation of human motives, thoughts, actions and emotions.
  - Action – natural movement of the actor(s) that is both original and creative enhancing the idea of the presentation.
  - Blocking – proper staging; movement with purpose; staging that best allows full view of actor's face and body placement with appropriate spacing to provide a clean and uncluttered stage picture.
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
  - Interpretation – a conclusive voice stating the overall message.

- Understandable concept – the combination of scripture, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Human Video

1. A Human Video Ensemble/Solo presentation is the art of telling a story through a non-verbal drama presentation that accompanies a musical track.
2. Human Video Ensemble, Small entries may consist of two to four eligible students. Human Video Ensemble, Large entries may consist of five to ten eligible students.
3. The musical track that accompanies Human Video entries must include lyrics. Voice-overs may be present in the recording but may not completely replace the lyrics.
4. The Human Video technique of “lip sync” must be present in the majority of the presentation.
5. The splicing of up to three songs is allowed. Entries may have more than three splicing as long as there are three songs maximum. Voice-overs do not count toward the three-song limit. See General Rules for “Copyrighted Materials.”
6. Live accompaniment is not permitted in Human Video presentations.
7. No live vocal communication of any form from the actor(s) is permitted.
8. A time limit of 5 minutes is allowed for Human Video, Solo entries. There are 90 seconds to set up and 90 seconds to tear down.
9. A time limit of 7 minutes is allowed for Human Video, Ensemble entries. There are 90 seconds to set up and 90 seconds to tear down.
10. Entries do not have to be original, but originality is encouraged.
11. All aspects of the human video must take place within the boundaries of the stage.
12. Safe gymnastic elements and/or cheer-type mounts are acceptable Human Video techniques but must fit believably within the story line or be vital to character or story development.
13. No person may have more than one other person on his/her shoulders.
14. Chairs are the only prop allowed. Standing on chairs is not allowed and results in disqualification. The only chairs allowed are the chairs available on-site in the presentation room. Participants and groups may not bring their own chairs to the festival.
15. Costumes, costume make-up, and masks of any kind are not permitted. Apparels in various colors are not considered costumes unless they are added, removed, or manipulated to portray a new place or character.
16. Introduction: Before beginning the presentation, participants must state their group name, school, all song titles, artists/composers/arrangers, if known. Do not make other comments such as testimony or justification. This does not count towards a set-up or presentation time limit.

## Human Video Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by LCS Festival including the following:

- Selection
  - Christian message – presents a clear Christian message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
  - Appropriate—appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  - Composition quality – quality and unaltered sound; splicing should flow easily with a clear connection between selections.
  - Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Facial expression – facial expressions convey the character’s disposition, mood, and include lip sync of song’s lyrics.
  - Body language – appropriate gestures and body movement for individual character(s).
  - Character development – a full realization of who the character(s) become(s) throughout the presentation.
  - Physical energy – demonstrates the emotion with exaggerated energy of character(s).
  - Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Presentation of story line – well-developed and recognizable storyline; actor(s) successfully convey intended purpose of character(s) throughout presentation (with facial expression, motion, body language and action).
  - Timing/delivery – understanding and excellent execution of the pace of the scene(s).
  - Development – complete, understandable, and believable development of the story line and characters.
  - Uniformity – uniform body movements; uniform lip sync between multiple characters (ensemble).
  - Actors’ focus – to whom or where is the actor speaking? Ability to remain “in character”; if multiple characters are being played by a single actor, transitions should be clear, distinctive and creative.
  - Characterization – believable representation of characters’ motives, thoughts, actions and emotions.
  - Action – natural movement of the actor(s) that is both original and creative to enhance the idea of the presentation.
  - Blocking – proper staging; movement with purpose; staging that best allows full view of actor’s face and body.
  - Mounts - mounts, object-building, gymnastic, or cheer-type elements fit believably within the storyline or character development.
- Effectiveness

- Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
- Interpretation – actual conveyance of the message of the song through the overall presentation.
- Memorization – strong and evident knowledge of the lyrics.
- Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Musical Theater

1. Musical Theater Ensemble/Solo is the art of presenting one scene/song from a published musical theater work combining the arts of acting, singing, dancing, and blocking/staging. If dialogue was written surrounding the song, it may be incorporated into the presentation, but it is not mandatory.
2. **An entry in Musical Theater Ensemble Small may consist of two to four students.** Musical Theatre Ensemble Large may consist of five to ten eligible students. All students participating in the piece must play active roles in the scene which may include acting, singing, and dancing when appropriate. There may be no ensembles in which one person acts/sings and the rest simply react.
3. A time limit of 7 minutes is allowed for both Ensemble and Solo Musical Theater entries. There are 90 seconds for setup and 90 seconds for tear down.
4. Costumes and makeup are allowed for entries in the Musical Theater category. Costumes must be appropriate for effective presentation, but modest in presentation and appropriate for this festival and effective communication of the story.
5. The dialogue and lyrics for Musical Theater entries may not be altered and must be presented in the way in which it was published.
6. The entire presentation must be memorized.
7. Props are allowed. Props are limited to what presenters can carry by hand into the presentation space and set or struck within the allowed setup and teardown times. Neither flammable nor liquid props are permitted.
8. Accompaniment:
  - o An accompanist is not considered part of the entry.
  - o The accompanist may be an adult or student.
  - o Accompanists are allowed to use music.
  - o A piano is the only accepted form of live accompaniment and is provided by the festival.
  - o If an accompaniment track is used, it may not contain any vocals.
9. If an accompaniment track is used and if the selected scene contains dialogue prior to the song, the individual or group must provide an individual to begin the track on cue.
10. The use of a director or conductor is not permitted. Rhythm, balance/blend, cut-off cues, etc. from anyone in the audience is not allowed and will result in a rule violation.
11. The actor/actors may not play or transition to multiple characters within the scene unless the original piece was intended to be played in that way.
12. All aspects of the scene must take place within the boundaries of the stage or presentation space.
13. Chairs may be used as props. However, standing on chairs is not allowed and may result in disqualification. The only chairs allowed are the chairs available on-site in the presentation room. Participants and groups may not bring their own chairs.
14. Introduction: Before beginning the presentation, participants must state their name, school, song title and publisher. Do not make other comments such as testimony or justification. This does not count towards a set-up or presentation time limit.
15. Musical Theatre licensing is different than purchasing soundtracks and all participants must take extra care to avoid liabilities. The entry cannot be copied or transcribed from what has been heard or seen in a theatre, on YouTube, or elsewhere. More information is available at [mtishows.com/general-information-on-licensing](http://mtishows.com/general-information-on-licensing). Musical Theatre licenses include a signed contract from the proper agent.

## Musical Theater Evaluation Criteria

- Selection
  - o Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
  - o Arrangement – well-rounded, cohesive musical/theatrical statement.
- Communication
  - o Character development – a full realization of who the character(s) become(s) throughout the presentation.
  - o Choreography – use of levels, group work, and variety of movements to support dance style if used.
  - o Communicative skills – ability to connect with audience.
  - o Expressiveness – both facial expression and use of body language; nonverbal communication (i.e., facial expressions, gestures, posture) enhances the mood of the presentation.
  - o Posture – relaxed body stance for proper breath support and management. Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence, and comfort.
  - o Unity – demonstrates ensemble cohesiveness.
  - o Vocal clarity – appropriate volume; proper pronunciation of words with effective tone and inflection.
- Presentation and Technique
  - o Artistry – connection to and interpretation of song(s).
  - o Action – natural movement of the actor(s) that is both original and creative, enhancing the idea of the presentation.
  - o Actor's focus – to whom or where is the actor speaking? Ability to remain in character.

- Blocking – proper staging; movement with purpose; staging that best allows full view of actor’s face and body placement with appropriate spacing to provide a clean and uncluttered stage picture.
- Breathing – proper breath management.
- Staging – excellent use of presentation space; use of formations (with correct spacing); use of creative transitions and movement from one formation to another; seamless transitions.
- Characterization – believable representation of human motives, thoughts, actions, and emotions.
- Timing/dialogue – understanding and excellent execution of the pacing of the scene and the delivery of the lines and execution of songs and dance.
- Delivery – strong delivery of lines/songs using proper pronunciation of words to help develop an effective mood and tone of the line/scene.
- Blend – creating a balanced sound. Diction – proper enunciation of words.
- Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes for excellent line/song interpretation.
- Execution of technical skill – if dance is used, proper execution of technical elements and movements (turns, leaps, jumps, kicks, extensions, and floor work); includes basic fundamentals of dance (posture, turnout, initiation of movement, and control).
- Intonation – ability to sing in tune.
- Musicality – execution of vocals and dance combined throughout the scene. Phrasing – completeness of a lyrical statement.
- Tone quality – ability to produce clear and pleasant tone.
- Overall Effectiveness
  - Demonstration – demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Memorization – strong knowledge of lines and lyrics and melody of song. Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparing the selection. Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation and technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Readers Theater

1. An entry in Readers Theater is for the art of communicating a story through a dramatic presentation in which the lines are read, and the story is communicated by oral expressions and vocal characterization rather than costumes or blocking.
2. An open script must be used either in hand or on a lectern.
3. An entry in Readers Theater may be comprised by two to ten eligible students.
4. A time limit of 5 minutes is allowed for each entry. There are 90 seconds for setup and 90 seconds for tear down.
5. Characterization through vocal expression is foundational to the genre. Actors must not just read the script but should interpret the character's words through effective oral expression and vocal inflection.
6. Only vocal sound effects produced by actor vocalizations are allowed. No recorded or electronic sound effects are allowed. Neither soundtracks nor live background music is allowed.
7. Chairs are provided for the readers/actors. Standing on chairs is not allowed.
8. Costumes, costume makeup, props, or blocking of any kind are not allowed.
9. Introduction: Before beginning the presentation, participants must state their name, school, and title. Do not make other comments such as testimony or justification. This does not count towards a set-up or presentation time limit.

## Readers Theater Evaluation Criteria

- Selection
  - Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty.
  - Christian message – presents a clear Christian message with ministry effectiveness in mind. Originality – strong script adaptation; use of inventive and creative ideas.
- Communication
  - Character development – through oral expression a full realization of who the character(s) become(s) throughout the presentation.
  - Expression – nonverbal communication (i.e., facial expressions, gestures, posture) that enhances the mood and message of the presentation.
  - Imagery – images creatively suggested through oral expression, vocal inflection, texture, and delivery; ability to draw the audience into an imagination space.
  - Stage presence – command of seating/presentation area; control, confidence, and comfort. Vocal clarity – appropriate volume; proper pronunciation with effective tone and inflection; interesting experimentation with and interpretation of language.
- Presentation and Technique
  - Actor's focus – actors should not directly or physically interact with one another other than by voice; actors should demonstrate the ability to remain in character and deliver lines; if multiple characters are being played by a single actor, transitions should be clear, distinctive, and creative.
  - Blocking – there can be no conventional full-body blocking; actors must deliver from a seated or standing position using only upper-body blocking. Simple actor movement may be creatively used for character or scene transitions.
  - Characterization – believable representation of human motives, thoughts, actions, and emotions using only oral expression and vocal texture.
  - Delivery – strong and interesting delivery lines to help develop an effective pace, mood, and tone of the presentation.
  - Sound effects – use of actor vocalization to creatively produce sound effects to enhance the effective telling of the story.
  - Timing/dialogue – understanding and excellent execution of the pace of the scene and the delivery of the lines.
- Overall Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion. Interpretation – a conclusive voice stating the overall message.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
  - Understandable concept – the combination of script selection, communication, presentation and technique, and effectiveness in telling a story.



## Instrumental Division

### 3rd-12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Read the General Information and General Rules.

Registrants in the Instrumental Division may submit entries in the following categories:

- Piano Solo
- Percussion Solo
- Percussion Ensemble
- Instrumental Solo
- Instrumental Ensemble
- **Music Production**

Clarification: Entries will receive a 2-point rule violation per evaluator, per violation, if they do not follow the festival category rules, have a missing or incomplete introduction, exceed the category time limit, etc.

## Instrumental General Rules

1. These apply as general rules for all Instrumental Division Categories.
2. An instrumental ensemble/solo is the art of presenting a musical composition using only musical instruments.
3. Two to ten eligible students may comprise an instrumental ensemble.
4. A time limit of 5 minutes is allowed for instrumental entries.
5. There are 90 seconds allowed for setup and 90 seconds for teardown (except for Percussion Ensemble and Instrumental Ensemble). Instrumentalists may tune their instruments or conduct a brief warm-up during this time.
6. Music must be memorized for all solo entries, **except Woodwind Solo and Brass Solo**. Presenters are encouraged to provide sheet music to the evaluators but are not required to do so.
7. Ensembles and orchestras do not have to memorize their music. Using the musical score does not affect the evaluation.
8. A conductor or director is not permitted. A conductor providing timing, cues, or cutoffs from the seat will result in a rule violation.
9. To ensure a consistent sound level, microphones, if used, are set up prior to the festival by an official sound technician. Participants may not ask for special sound settings. It is the responsibility of the participants to make sure the microphones are turned on and to move microphones to accommodate blend and volume.
10. Soundtrack levels may be adjusted to compensate for different recording levels.
11. A participant may play more than one instrument in an Instrumental entry if the setup and tear-down time limits are not exceeded.
12. Use of pre-programmed or pre-recorded loops/software is not allowed; any looping or sequencing technology must function only in response to manual and live hands-on control.
13. Piano solo and percussion entries are not allowed as accompaniment (either live or recorded).
14. Click tracks, metronomes, or other rhythmic stability assistance devices or technology are disallowed.
15. Introduction: Before beginning the presentation, participants must state their name, school, song title(s), and artist(s)/composer(s). Do not make other comments such as testimony or justification. This does not count toward set up or presentation time limit.
16. Accompaniment:
  - a. Instrumental entries may choose to have or not to have accompaniment (except for Piano Solo and Percussion).
  - b. An accompanist is not considered part of the entry.
  - c. The accompanist may be an adult or student.

- d. Accompanists are allowed to use music.
- e. Only a piano, keyboard, or acoustic guitar may be used for live accompaniment. (Guitar may not be used to accompany a Guitar Solo.) Only a piano is provided by the festival.
- f. If an accompaniment track is used, the instrument(s) played by the student(s) cannot be predominant on the accompaniment track.
- g. Neither live nor recorded background vocals are permitted.

## Piano Solo Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by LCS Festival including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  - Arrangement/Composition – a well-rounded, cohesive musical statement.
  - Originality – if written or arranged by the student, use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Posture – conducive for performance.
  - Expressiveness – appropriate musical interpretation
  - Stage presence – command of stage and instrument; control, confidence and comfort.
  - Interpretive skill – interprets the overall musical intent (i.e., emotion, energy, musical line, personal involvement/connectivity to theme of arrangement).
  - Communication – ability to connect with audience.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
  - Phrasing – produces complete musical sentences.
  - Rhythmic stability – evenness of rhythm
  - Precision/accuracy – skillful exactness of the presentation.
  - Chording technique – if the piece is improvised, skillful use of various chords, progressions, inversions, etc. to enhance the arrangement
  - Fingering – smooth dexterity in chords, scales, arpeggios, and patterns.
  - Modulating technique – accurate key changes (if it is improvised, the effective use of chords, progressions, scales, and arpeggios, etc. in making key changes).
  - Control – command of the instrument to produce desired tone and affect.
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
  - Memorization – complete knowledge of the piece from memory
  - Overall effectiveness – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique, to achieve overall effectiveness

## Percussion, Solo and Ensemble

The following will be provided at the Festival for Percussion Solo/Ensemble, Traditional entries:

- Solo - 1 standard drum sets
- Ensemble - 2 standard drum sets
- 4 - 6' tables handbell entries.

A Percussion Ensemble/Solo, entry is the art of presenting a musical entry using percussion instruments and techniques.

A Percussion Ensemble entry consists of two to ten eligible students.

Instruments from the approved percussion list may be used to create the Percussion entries.

Personal drum sets may not be brought to the festival.

A time limit of 5 minutes is allowed for Percussion, Solo entries. There are 90 seconds for set up and 90 seconds for tear down.

**A time limit of 5 minutes is allowed for Percussion Ensemble, including unconventional entries. There are 2.5 minutes for set up and 2.5 minutes for tear down.**

### Percussion Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by LCS Festival including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate - appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  - Arrangement/composition – a well-rounded, cohesive musical statement.
  - Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Posture – posture conducive for performance.
  - Expressiveness – appropriate musical interpretation; musical and facial expression.
  - Stage presence – command of stage and instrument; control, confidence and comfort.
  - Communicative skill – interprets the overall musical intent (i.e. emotion, energy, musical line, personal involvement/connectivity to theme of arrangement).
  - Unity – demonstrates the art of working together (ensemble).
  - Communication – ability to connect with audience.
  - Interpretation - actual conveyance of the message of the piece through the presentation
- Presentation/Technique
  - Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
  - Phrasing – produces complete musical sentences.
  - Tone quality – a musical sound having a definite pitch, volume, or timeline.
  - Rhythmic stability – evenness of rhythm.
  - Precision/accuracy – skillful exactness of the presentation.
  - Control – command of the instrument(s) to produce desired effects.
  - Blend – achieves balance between instruments or movements of the piece.
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
  - Memorization – strong knowledge of the melody of the song(s)
  - Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness attaining a response.

## Instrumental Solo Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by LCS Festival including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  - Arrangement/Composition – a well-rounded, cohesive musical statement.
  - Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Posture – conducive for performance.
  - Expressiveness – appropriate musical interpretation; musical and facial expression.
  - Stage presence – command of stage and instrument; control, confidence and comfort.
  - Communicative skill – interprets the overall musical intent (i.e. emotion, energy, musical line, personal involvement/connectivity to theme of arrangement).
  - Communication – ability to connect with audience.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
  - Phrasing – produces complete musical sentences.
  - Intonation – accurate pitch of the instrument, maintaining correct intervals.
  - Tone quality – a musical sound having a definite pitch, volume, and timbre.
  - Rhythmic stability – evenness of rhythm (timing, vibrato, etc.).
  - Precision/accuracy – skillful exactness of the presentation.
  - Fingering – smooth dexterity in chords, scales, arpeggios, and patterns.
  - Technique – if bowed – proper bow hold; if plucked – proper tension and control.
  - Control – command of the instrument to produce desired tone and effect.
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
  - Memorization – strong knowledge of the melody of the song(s).
  - Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Instrumental Ensemble & Orchestra Ensembles

Instrumental Ensemble is the art of performing an instrumental selection without lyrics.

Instrumental Ensemble entries may consist of two to ten eligible students.

Orchestra Ensemble Junior (3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade) and Orchestra Ensemble (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade) entries may consist of eleven to seventy-five eligible students.

Instrumental Ensemble & Orchestra entries have a time limit of 5 minutes, with 2.5 minutes for setup and 2.5 minutes for tear down.

Instrumental Ensemble & Orchestra selections do not have to be original, but originality is encouraged.

A conductor or director is not permitted for Instrumental Ensemble. Participants receiving rhythm, balance/blend or cut-off cues from coaches or directors seated in the audience will receive rule-violation point deductions.

A conductor is permitted for Orchestra Ensembles. This person may use music.

All individuals who perform live in an Instrumental Ensemble must meet their category's age or grade requirements, register as participants, and pay the appropriate registration fee.

Instrumental Ensemble & Orchestra entries do not need to be memorized. Using the musical score will not affect the evaluation.

A keyboard is provided; the participants must provide any additional keyboards. Pre-programming or sequencing of keyboards is prohibited; the keyboard should function only in response to manual, hands-on control.

### Instrumental Ensemble Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by LCS Festival including the following:

- Selection
  - Appropriate—appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  - Christian message - presents a clear Christian message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
  - Overall arrangement – well-rounded, cohesive musical statement.
  - Originality – use of creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach; creative in its concept and structure
- Communication
  - Posture – conducive for effective performance.
  - Expressiveness – appropriate musical interpretation; musical and facial expression.
  - Stage presence – command of stage and instrument; control, confidence and comfort.
  - Communicative skill – interprets the overall musical intent (i.e. emotion, energy, musical line, personal involvement/connectivity to theme of arrangement).
  - Communication – ability to connect with audience.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
  - Phrasing – interesting melodic and instrumental phrasing
  - Intonation – accurate pitch of the instrument, maintaining correct intervals.
  - Tone quality – clarity and accuracy of pitch, volume, and timbre
  - Rhythmic stability – evenness of rhythm (timing, vibrato, etc.)
  - Precision/accuracy – skillful exactness of the presentation.
  - Fingering – smooth dexterity in chords, scales, and patterns.
  - Control – command of the instrument(s) to produce desired tone and effect.
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness
  - Interpretation of clear thought - consistent interpretation of the musical style and lyrical line throughout the song
  - Relevance - music is in a style and form that connects with the listener

## Music Production (new category)

Entries in the Music Production category must be presented in the accepted genres defined as follows:

- Hip Hop/R&B: Involves a rhythmic pattern of drum sounds accompanied by soulful, expressive melodies and/or lyrics.
- Pop/Ballad: Involved a rhythmic pattern commonly used in popular music genres and often incorporates electronic sounds and synthesizers with strong rhythms, repetition of key phrases, and rhymes.
- Global: Involves a rhythm or tempo that is shared across cultures and regions around the world.
- House/Techno: Involves synthesized melodies and experimental percussive elements. It often features a repetitive structure and tempo of around 120-130 beats per minute.
- Live Sounds/Rock/Jazz/Worship: Involves a rhythm that incorporates sounds typically heard in a live performance, such as drums, guitars, and vocals.
- Electronic/Bass Music/EDM (Electronic Dance Music): Involves rhythmic patterns produced using electronic instruments, technology, and sound effects. It typically features a tempo of 140-150 beats per minute and draws influence from dubstep, UK garage, and other bass-heavy genres.
- Cinematic/FX: Involves a musical rhythm that incorporates elements of sound effects and cinematic music to create a dramatic and atmospheric sound. It is often used in film and video game soundtracks to enhance the emotional impact of a scene.

### Music Production Rules

1. Musical Production is the art of producing a complete project with rhythmic and melodic components. This may include a combination of sampling, recorded original sounds, and digital instrumentation (VST).

2. **Music Production entries may consist of 1 to 5 eligible student producers.** All students participating as producers and engineers must meet the age or grade requirements and register for the festival. Recorded instrumentalists and vocalists do not need to meet the age or grade requirements or register as participants.

3. Digital audio workstations (DAW) and software must be used to create, splice, edit, engineer, and manipulate sounds, samples, and loops for a completed project. The following DAWs are accepted:

- Ableton
- Adobe Audition
- Cubase
- FL Studio
- GarageBand
- Logic Pro X
- Pro Tools
- Reason
- Studio One

4. All music production projects have a time limit of 1-minute minimum to 3-minute maximum. There are 90 seconds for set-up and 90 seconds for tear-down. **Music project audio will be played for the evaluators after the Introductory Comments.**

5. Introductory comments are required. See “Introductory Comments” under the “General Rules” section for complete requirements and format. **This category has additional introductory comments and time restrictions.** Participants may not exceed 2 minutes for introductory comments. Participants may show their project file during the introductory comments. Introductory comments must include:

- Participant(s)
- Church name, city, state
- Grade
- DAW (Digital Audio Workstation)
- Genre(s)
- Number of tracks used
- Description of Project File, including use of samples, vocals, instrument/live sounds, and VSTs (Virtual Studio Technology)
- Names of non-participant instrumentalists and vocalists
- Explanation of process by stating techniques, manipulations, dynamics, equipment used, etc.

6. All music production projects must have a minimum of 10 tracks. There is no maximum.

7. The complete music project must be exported and presented as an MP3, M4A, or WAV file by plugging in either a mobile device or laptop into the provided 3.5 mm (1/8") audio plug. **Participants are responsible to bring audio adapters if necessary.**

8. Copyright policy: The League of Christian Schools not responsible for assuring that all material included in students' film productions is in compliance with existing copyright laws. It is the responsibility of the students, parents, and schools to be completely legal and ethical in their conduct regarding copyrighted material used to create an entry for the festival. Students must obtain either the copyrights/licenses or explicit written permission for the use of all software, recorded music, samples, and/or sound files included. See "Copyrighted Material" under the General Rules for an additional list of guidelines.

9. Model Release policy: The League of Christian Schools is not responsible for assuring that all use of recorded vocals and/or instrumentalists included in students' productions are in compliance with existing model release laws. It is the responsibility of the registrants, authors, creators, students, parents, and youth leaders to be completely legal and ethical in their conduct regarding the use of personal/intellectual property used to create an entry for the festival. Students must obtain either a model release or explicit written permission (not required to present to evaluators) from each actor or appropriate parental consent. See "License" under General Rules for a complete license statement.

## Music Production Evaluation Criteria

- Selection
  - Appropriate—appropriate for this Festival; appropriate music for genre(s).
  - Christian message—presents a clear Christian message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
  - Style—originality of music and rhythm.
  - Preparation—an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
- Communication
  - Expressiveness – appropriate musical interpretation.
  - Arrangement/composition—a well-rounded, cohesive production statement.
  - Producing/composing—choice of sounds, effects, and arrangement that help communicate mood and emotion.
  - Creativity—diverse production skills and sound quality.
  - Interpretive skill—interprets the overall musical intent (i.e., emotion, energy, musical line, personal involvement/connectivity to the theme of the production).
- Presentation/Technique
  - Rhythmic feel—the rhythmic feel of the beat, often created by the placement and timing of percussive or rhythmic elements.
  - Contrast/variation—variations and contrasts in the harmonic structure, melodic lines, and rhythmic elements.
  - Sound design—the selection and manipulation of individual sounds within the project, such as the choice of sound samples, effects, processing, and synthesis.
  - Arrangement—the organization and structure of the project, including the placement and duration of different sections, such as verses, choruses, bridges, etc.
  - Time frame/development—development of the overall structure that fits into a proportional time frame where one section is not emphasized to the detriment of another section.
  - Dynamics—the use of volume, panning, and other effects to create a sense of movement and variation within the project.
  - Sampling—the use of pre-existing audio recordings or live instruments to create unique sounds and textures within the project.
  - Transparent editing—clips, splices, and edits are unnoticeable and do not detract from the overall project.
  - Mixing and mastering—the process of balancing and enhancing the individual elements of the project to create a cohesive final product that sounds polished and professional.
- Overall Effectiveness
  - Evident Ministry - evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Overall effect—the combination of music production, presentation, and technique to achieve overall effectiveness.
  - Relevance—production is in a form that connects with the listener.
  - Understandable concept—the combination of music selection, communication, presentation and technique, and effectiveness.



## Vocal

### 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades

Read the General Information and General Rules.

Clarification: Entries will receive a 2-point rule violation per evaluator, per violation, if they do not follow the festival category rules, have a missing or incomplete introduction, exceed the category time limit, etc.

Registrants in the Vocal Division may submit entries in the following categories:

- Choir
- Rap Solo or Group
- Songwriting
- Vocal Ensemble, Small or Large
- Vocal Solo, Female
- Vocal Solo, Male
- Worship Team
- Christian Band

### General Information

1. A participant may enter the same song in more than one category. For example, the student may sing a solo version of a song that is used in a vocal ensemble. However, a student or group may not enter the same category twice.
2. Vocal Solo, Jr. Female is open to students in grades 6-8 during the current school year (or at least age 12 per participant requirements.)
3. Vocal Solo, Sr. Female is open to grades 9-12 students during the current school year.
4. Synthesizers/keyboards are only provided for the Worship Team, Christian Band, and Rap.
5. A piano or keyboard is provided for Songwriting, Vocal ensembles/solos, and Choir.

### Vocal General Rules

1. Use of pre-programmed or pre-recorded loops/software is not allowed; any looping or sequencing technology must function only in response to manual and live hands-on control.
2. Click tracks, metronomes, or other rhythmic stability assistance devices or technology are disallowed.
3. Choir is the only Vocal Division category that allows a conductor/director to be part of the presentation. No other Vocal category is permitted to have a conductor. Participants in those categories receiving rhythm, balance/blend, or cut-off cues from coaches or directors seated in the audience will receive rule-violation point deductions.
4. Choir, Vocal Ensemble/Solo Accompaniment:
5. Choir and vocal entries may choose to have or not have accompaniment.
6. Accompanists are not considered part of the entry.
7. The accompanist may be an adult or student.
8. Accompanists are allowed to use music.
9. A maximum of four instruments from the allowed instruments list may be used for live accompaniment. A piano is the only instrument that will be provided for Vocal Ensemble/Solo entries.
10. Introduction: Before beginning the presentation, participants must state their name, school, song title(s) and artist(s)/publisher(s). Do not make other comments such as testimony or justification in the introduction before the presentation begins. This does not count towards a set-up or presentation time limit.

## Worship Team

1. A Worship Team entry is the art of leading others in worship.
2. Worship Team entries may consist of two to ten eligible students.
3. The Worship Team is allowed a time limit of 7 minutes, with 2.5 minutes for set up and 2.5 minutes for tear down. Participants may have assistance with setup.
4. All individuals within a Worship Team entry must meet the age or grade requirements. No adult accompanists or vocalists are allowed.
5. Worship Team members must consist of both vocalists and instrumentalists. Entries are required to have more than one vocalist.
6. All music must be memorized.
7. Additional instruments, equipment, or additional percussion accessories are permitted but must be provided by the participants and only if they can be set up and torn down within the allotted time limit. Individuals are not allowed to bring their own drum sets.
8. The festival provides sound engineers.

## Worship Team Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by LCS Festival including the following:

- Selection
  - Christian message – presents a clear Christian message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
  - Arrangement – well-rounded, cohesive musical statement
  - Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
  - Appropriate – appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  - Musical transitions - thoughtful flow of music; theme unity (holiness, the cross, etc.); smooth flow from one song to the next
- Communication
  - Posture – relaxed body stance for proper breath control.
  - Expressiveness – both facial expression and use of body language to lead in worship.
  - Stage presence – command of stage and/or instrument; control, confidence and comfort.
  - Communicative skill – interprets the overall musical intent (i.e. emotion, energy, musical line, personal involvement/connectivity to theme of arrangement).
  - Unity – cohesiveness of vocalists and instrumentalists.
  - Worshipful lyrics - appropriate lyrics for application of audience; avoiding trite expressions
- Presentation/Technique
  - Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
  - Phrasing – completeness of a musical statement.
  - Intonation – ability to sing in tune.
  - Tone quality – ability to produce clear and pleasant tone
  - Diction – proper enunciation of words.
  - Articulation – executes articulate phrases (i.e. ‘staccato’ – short, ‘marcato’ – marked, and ‘legato’ – connected).
  - Breathing – proper breath management.
  - Rhythmic precision – ability to internalize the pulse.
  - Blend – creates a balanced sound.
  - Energy – demonstrates vitality appropriate for the selection(s).
  - Harmony—knowledgeable and effective use of unison and multi-part harmony
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion; able to draw a worshipful response.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
  - Memorization – strong knowledge of the lyrics and melody of the song(s).
  - Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Rap

1. Rap is the urban art of communicating through rhythm and rhyme.
2. A Rap Group entry may consist of two to ten eligible students.
3. Rap entries must be the original works of the student(s) and not previously submitted in this festival.
4. All Rap entries have a time limit of 5 minutes. There are 90 seconds for set up and 90 seconds for tear down.

5. Three sets of lyric sheets must be hand-delivered to the evaluators at each level of participation. Lyric sheets must be typed with the lyrics divided into the sections of the song (chorus, verse, bridge, etc.) and must have a title page or heading that includes the following information as listed in the order given below:
  - a. Title
  - b. Category
  - c. Lyricist(s)
  - d. Credits
  - e. School Name, City, and State
6. A keyboard and standard drum set are provided. Students wishing to use drum machines must provide their own equipment and adhere to the setup and teardown time limits.
7. All entries must be memorized.

## Rap Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on this criterion established by LCS Festival:

- Selection
  - Christian message – presents a clear Christian message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
  - Appropriate - appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  - Arrangement – creative structure of verse and/or chorus with music and vocals.
  - Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Clear concept – understandable concept of lyrical message
  - Expression – facial expression and body language that reflect the tone and intent of the lyrics
  - Stage presence – command of stage and/or instrument; control, confidence and comfort.
  - Vocal clarity – enunciation of words, projecting with the correct, clear inflection and control appropriate for the presentation.
  - Interpretation - overall effectiveness/impact of the message
- Presentation/Technique
  - Motions – hand and arm gestures that enhance performance.
  - Precision/stability – lyrics, motions and music complement each other.
  - Energy – demonstrates the emotion with exaggerated energy for the lyrics.
  - Creativity – unique physical response to rhythm and rhyme.
  - Timing – allows for lyrical delivery and audience response.
  - Phrasing – employs creative and innovative wording rather than trite or cliché.
  - Control – maintaining quality sound with appropriate volume.
  - Synchronization – multiple vocalists’ gestures or movements in proper rhythm with each other and the music (ensemble).
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
  - Memorization – strong knowledge of the lyrics and melody of the song(s).
  - Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Songwriting

Songwriting entries are not evaluated on the presentation of the performer(s). However, the performance of the song can either strengthen or weaken the entire presentation. The criteria used to evaluate Songwriting entries will not support Rap entries.

1. Songwriting is the art of writing a Christian or sacred composition, including both music and lyrics, or rewriting a traditional hymn by adding modern elements (referred to as Modern Hymn).
2. Songwriting entries may consist of one to five eligible students.
3. Songwriting entries are allowed 5 minutes to present their selection. There are 90 seconds for set up and 90 seconds for tear down.
4. **Three sets of lyric sheets must be hand-delivered to the evaluators at each level of participation. Lyric sheets must be typed with the sections of the song clearly marked (chorus, verse, bridge, etc.) and must have a title page or heading that includes the following information:**
  - a. Title
  - b. Category
  - c. Composer(s)
  - d. Genre
  - e. Public Domain Lyrics and/or hymn tune used (Modern Hymn style only)
  - f. School Name, City, and State
5. Songwriting entries must be entirely the original work of the student(s) and not previously submitted in this festival.
6. If an accompaniment track is created for the festival, all musicians used to create the accompaniment must meet the age or grade requirements of the festival but do not need to register as participants.
7. A maximum of four instruments may be used for accompaniment (either recorded or live).
8. Songwriting entries may be performed by the composer(s) or by another student or group of students.
9. All music performed live must be memorized.
10. **The students who perform live at the festival must meet the age or grade requirements of the festival. Students performing live as accompanists do not need to register as participants. No adult accompanists or group members are allowed in Songwriting.**

## Songwriting Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by LCS Festival including the following:

- Selection
  - Christian message – presents a clear Christian message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
  - Appropriate - appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  - Arrangement – well-rounded, cohesive musical statement
  - Originality – original in its concept, lyrics, and melody; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Use of poetic language – employs poetic language, such as similes and metaphors.
  - Rhyme scheme – follows a rhyme scheme that is unique in its wording.
  - Lyrical hook - composed around a lyrical concept/phrase that is restated or woven throughout the selection
  - Clear message – reveals a message that is clearly understood by the listener.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Introduction/song length – an introduction that sets the mood of the song; a song that is not too long or too short.
  - Harmonic structure – the harmonic structure of the song must follow acceptable musical practice and should be enriched beyond the primary chords of I, IV, and V.
  - Phrasing – melodic and lyrical phrasing follows the concept of the song.
  - Melodic development – variations in the melody after being stated in its initial form.
  - Song form – structure of the composition is in “song” form (for example, introduction, verse, chorus, verse, chorus, bridge, modulation into chorus, coda/tag).
  - Use of figurative language – creative and effective use of descriptive words, creates a mental picture.
  - Time frame/development – develops of the overall harmonic structure that fits into a proportional time frame where one section is not emphasized to the detriment of another section.
  - Contrast/variation – variations and contrasts in the harmonic structure and the melodic line.
  - Clear theme – overall concept and melodic motif clearly developed.
  - Memorable tune – melody is memorable and singable.
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Interpretation of clear thought – consistent interpretation of the musical style and lyrical line throughout the song.

- Relevance – music and lyrics are in a style and form that connects with the listener.
- Understandable concept - the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique and effectiveness attaining a response.

## Vocal Ensemble/Solo

1. An entry in a Vocal Ensemble/Solo category is for the art of presenting a vocal song selection with ministry effectiveness in mind.
2. A Vocal Ensemble, Small, may consist of two to four eligible students.
3. A Vocal Ensemble, Large, may consist of five to ten eligible students.
4. A Vocal Ensemble, Spanish may consist of two to ten eligible students.
5. Bilingual entries are not permitted.
6. A time limit of 5 minutes is allowed for all vocal solos and ensembles. There are 90 seconds allowed for setup and 90 seconds for teardown.
7. Music must be memorized.
8. Participants may not ask for special sound settings. To ensure a consistent sound level, microphones are set up prior to the festival by an official sound technician. It is the responsibility of the participants to make sure the microphones are turned on and to move microphones to accommodate blend and volume.
9. Soundtrack levels may be adjusted to compensate for different recording levels. Background vocals are allowed for solo entries. Background vocals are not allowed for group entries.

## Vocal Solo Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by LCS Festival including the following:

- Selection
  - Christian message – presents a clear Christian message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
  - Appropriate - appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  - Arrangement – well-rounded, cohesive musical statement.
  - Display of vocal range – demonstrates a wide vocal range
- Communication
  - Posture – relaxed body stance for proper breath support and management.
  - Expressiveness – both facial expression and use of body language.
  - Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort.
  - Communicative skills – ability to connect with audience.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
  - Phrasing – completeness of a lyrical statement.
  - Breathing – proper breath management.
  - Intonation – ability to sing in tune.
  - Tone quality – ability to produce clear and pleasant tone.
  - Diction – proper enunciation of words.
  - Articulation – executes clear and coherent phrases (i.e. 'staccato' – short, 'marcato' – marked, and 'legato' – connected).
  - Rhythmic precision – ability to internalize the pulse.
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparing the selection.
  - Memorization – strong knowledge of the lyrics and melody of the song(s).
  - Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Choir

1. A Choir is for the art of presenting a sacred choral song selection with ministry effectiveness in mind.
2. A Choir entry must consist of 11 to 75 eligible students.
3. Choirs are allowed 5 minutes to present their entry. There are 2.5 minutes for setup and 2.5 minutes for teardown.
4. Background vocals are not permitted on soundtracks.
5. Soundtrack levels may be adjusted to compensate for different recording levels.
6. A director is allowed. This person may use music.

## Vocal Ensemble/Choir Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by LCS Festival including the following:

- Selection
  - Christian message – presents a clear Christian message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
  - Appropriate - appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  - Arrangement – well-rounded, cohesive musical statement.
  - Display of vocal range – demonstrates a wide vocal range
- Communication
  - Posture – relaxed body stance for proper breath support and management.
  - Expressiveness – both facial expression and use of body language.
  - Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort.
  - Unity – demonstrates ensemble cohesiveness.
  - Communicative skills – ability to connect with audience.
- Presentation/Technique
  - Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
  - Phrasing – completeness of a lyrical statement.
  - Breathing – proper breath management.
  - Intonation – ability to sing in tune.
  - Tone quality – ability to produce clear and pleasant tone.
  - Diction – proper enunciation of words.
  - Articulation – executes clear and coherent phrases (i.e. ‘staccato’ – short, ‘marcato’ – marked, and ‘legato’ – connected).
  - Blend – creating a balanced sound.
  - Rhythmic precision – ability to internalize the pulse.
  - Harmony—knowledgeable and effective use of unison and multi-part harmony
- Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparing the selection.
  - Memorization – strong knowledge of the lyrics and melody of the song(s).
  - Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.

## Christian Band

1. The Christian Band category is the art of presenting Christian music by students whose focus is on originality in the presentation.
2. Christian Band entries may consist of two to ten eligible students.
3. Entries in this category must include both music and lyrics.
4. Christian Bands have a time limit of 5 minutes, with 2.5 minutes for setup and 2.5 minutes for tear down. Participants may have assistance with setup.
5. All individuals within a Christian Band entry must meet the age or grade requirements. No adult accompanists or vocalists are allowed.
6. Original songs are encouraged, though not required, but if a cover song is presented, evaluators will be looking for originality with arrangement, instrumentation, vocalization, etc.
7. All music must be memorized.
8. Additional instruments, equipment, and/or percussion accessories are permitted but must be provided by the participants and only if the additions can be set up and torn down within the allotted time limit. Individuals are not allowed to bring their own drum sets.
9. Students must refrain from any actions that may be deemed offensive or inappropriate. Inappropriate actions include but are not limited to improper gestures or moves, stage diving, and language unbecoming a Christian. Any festival equipment damaged as a result of inappropriate actions is the responsibility of the students to replace. Failure to adhere to this standard results in disqualification.
10. Sound engineers are provided by the festival.
11. In-ear metronomes are only permitted for drummers.

## Christian Band Evaluation Criteria

- Selection
  - Appropriate – appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty. Arrangement – consistent with genre.
  - Christian message – presents a clear Christian message with ministry effectiveness in mind. Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- Communication
  - Communicative skill – interprets the overall musical intent (i.e., emotion, energy, musical line, personal involvement/connectivity to theme of arrangement).
  - Expressiveness – musical and facial expression; use of body language.
  - Stage presence – command of stage and/or instrument; control, confidence, and comfort. Unity – cohesiveness of vocalists and instrumentalists.
  - Vocal clarity – articulation; enunciation of words, projecting with the correct inflection and control appropriate for the presentation.
- Presentation and Technique
  - Blend – creates a balanced sound. Breathing – proper breath management.
  - Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
  - Energy – demonstrates vitality appropriate for the selection. Intonation – ability to sing and play in tune.
  - Musical transitions – flow of music.
  - Phrasing – completeness of a musical statement. Rhythmic precision – ability to internalize the pulse.
  - Tone quality – vocally consistent with genre; musically, a sound having a definite pitch, volume, and texture.
- Overall Effectiveness
  - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion. Interpretation – actual conveyance of the message of the piece through the presentation.
  - Memorization – strong knowledge of the chord progressions, lyrics, and movements of the selection.
  - Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
  - Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation and technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.