

## Parents

There are many ways that you can effectively assist your child at the middle school tournament. Thanks for helping and enjoy your day!

### Before the tournament:

- Know the following **information** about your child. This information will be available from your school's coach before the tournament.

**Event:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Homeroom:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Remind your daughter/son to bring all **necessary materials** for their event (e.g., scripts, visual aids, notecards, etc.). They should know their needs.
- Pack a **snack and a bottle of water**. No food is sold in tournament buildings.
- Be certain that they have **breakfast**.

### During the tournament:

- Participants have other things to think about. Help them to be in the right place at the right time. Before the general meeting, you may want to take your child to the rooms where he/she will perform.
- Make this a positive learning experience. Everyone is a little tense. We all need to be mindful of other's feelings.
- Many students are here with a coach, but no parent; offer help to any lost souls along the way.
- Please follow proper **tournament etiquette**:
  - Attend the **parent and general meetings** in the morning. Schematic and room changes, as well as essential general information, will be announced.
  - Do NOT leave valuables in the homeroom; it will be used for competition.
  - **Room/Round etiquette:**
    1. Turn off all **cell phones**, pagers and other electronic equipment during rounds.

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2. Please do not **leave** the room during the round. You should watch all performers. However, if you find you must leave, do so *between* speeches.

3. If you must **enter** a round already in progress, WAIT outside the room until you hear applause, signaling the end of a speech, before entering.

4. Students, parents, and **judges** should not discuss or comment on performances until the ballot is turned into the Tab room. If you have a question about a particular judge's or student's behavior or rules, come to the Tab Room as soon as possible. (There is a Tab Room in each building; here scores are tabulated and questions/concerns are addressed).

5. Parents may **NOT videotape or take photographs**. You risk your child's disqualification if you choose to ignore this rule.

6. Parents may **NOT prompt** their child during a performance. Again, you risk disqualification of the contestant by ignoring this rule.

- Please show **respect** for all students at all times. Do not read, eat, sleep, listen to music, catch up on paperwork, or otherwise distract a performer. Likewise, if you are aware of someone else being disrespectful, bring it to the judge's attention, quietly, between presentations.
- **QUIET PLEASE!** Be aware that not all rounds finish at the same time. Although it is sometimes difficult to contain your excitement, please keep conversation to a minimum when leaving a round. Excess noise in the hallways distracts those who are still competing.
- Each school is responsible for **cleaning their homerooms**. All garbage must be emptied (there are dumpsters outside the buildings), boards erased, and desks and lecterns returned to their original positions. Spills must be cleaned up. The awards ceremony will NOT start until all rooms have been cleaned. Schools will be assessed a **\$25 per room penalty** for failure to properly clean each homeroom.
- **Lost and Found:** Direct all lost/found items to the Tab Room. Announcements will be made at the awards ceremony.
- **Be aware of the schedule.**

## Tournament Schedule

**8:45**      **Registration**

**9:45**      Go to the designated homeroom for your school. Be sure that your child has received a **code, map, and schedule** from their coach. Only the coach stands in line for registration materials.

- 9:45 Parent Meeting**  
This session will provide answers to your questions and give you lots of helpful information. It affords the children some time to prepare for the day on their own.
- 10:10 General Meeting (For all students)**  
General rules are reviewed and any room changes are announced.
- 10:30 Round I**  
Off you go! Keep your child calm. Remind him/her to speak clearly, not too quickly, to use eye contact and, of course, have fun. Oh! By the way, do they have to go to the bathroom?
- 11:45 Round II**  
Give a hug, if no one is looking.
- Check with the coach about lunch plans. If plans are to eat in an area restaurant, this may be a good time to scout out a few good locations. Check out a safe area in the building to leave stools, visual aids, etc.
- 12:45 Lunch**  
This time should be relaxing. Discuss how the tournament is going. Refill the water bottle. Go to the bathroom.  
**PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR THE LAST ROUND.**
- 2:00 Round III**  
Remember not to stress winning. Public speaking is the number one fear in America. By definition, your child's participation today makes him/her a winner.
- 4:45 Results**  
**5:45** There is a room full of people adding up scores. As soon as they are done, the awards assembly will start. Be patient if the assembly starts late. Review assembly etiquette:
- **Stay** through the whole ceremony.
  - **Excessive cheering** and hooting is distracting, disrespectful and slows down the ceremony.
  - **Applaud** for every winner, not just those from your school.
- Take a deep breath and enjoy the moment.

**\*\*ALL QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, COMPLAINTS, AND COMMENTS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED WITH THE STAFF IN THE TAB ROOM\*\***