THE A CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OAKS
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Dear Parents,

Although snow has been scarce this winter, our school days continue to be full. As the calendar turns to February, it is time to begin preparations for this year's Grammar Speech Meet.

Each year at The Oaks, students have the opportunity to participate in a class speech meet. This memorable event brings joy and new challenges to our students as they prepare a good gift of carefully chosen words, thoughtful memorization, and gracious presentation. How delightful to hear an older student exclaim, "I remember reciting that poem in first grade!" Or to hear a little first grader whisper to his teacher, "I want to memorize that piece when I get big!" We are grateful that our students get to store up a beautiful treasury of sweet words.

As you assist your child in choosing his or her speech selection, please follow the guidelines below. Classroom speech meets will occur on Tuesday, March 17th and Wednesday, March 18th (specific times TBD). Please have your child submit their piece to their teacher no later than Wednesday, February 11th.

CATEGORIES:

- **Poetry (grades 1-6)** Selections need to be good, true, and beautiful, and worth storing in your bones for the rest of your life. Please steer clear of silly, crude, or trite poems. We want to encourage your child to retain something worthy of storing in the heart that will edify both your child and their audience. For this reason, the teacher will give final approval of the selection.
- **Bible (grades 1-6)** Any selection must come from one of the following translations: KJV, NKJV, NAS, or NIV.
- **Fables & Folklore (grades 2-4)** These pieces are to be unrhymed prose.
- **Historic & Literary Oration (grades 5-6 only)** This category is designed to include historic speeches and/or classical literary excerpts.

LENGTH OF SELECTION: The length requirements below are provided to establish a minimum length. Some pieces may have very short lines and therefore more would be required. Other selections may have longer lines, and in that case fewer would be acceptable. These judgment calls will be made by the teacher on a case by case basis.

	Poetry	**Bible**
• 1st grade	10+ lines	5+ verses
• 2nd grade	15+ lines	8+ verses
• 3rd grade	15+ lines	8+ verses
• 4th grade	20+ lines	10+ verses
• 5th grade	25+ lines	10+ verses
• 6th grade	30+ lines	12+ verses

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Wednesday, February 11th:** Turn in a copy of your chosen speech to your teacher. Students are strongly encouraged to submit selections before the deadline, as each piece will be reviewed and the teacher will affirm the selection or make other recommendations before the student commits to memory.
- **Tuesday, March 10th:** Memorization deadline - to be checked by the teacher no later than this date.
- **Tuesday, March 17th and Wednesday, March 18th:** Final speeches will be performed in front of the class and adjudicated by adult judges. Parents and guests are welcome to attend!
- **Tuesday, March 24th:** The top two students (minimum Speech Meet score required) in each category will perform for the Grammar School Speech Assembly. Details for this will come home at a later date.

The Speech Meet is a tremendous opportunity for students to gain public speaking experience, improve their memorization skills, and store something worthy of memorizing in their hearts. ***A delightful opportunity for grammar families to see the maturing beauty of a word fitly spoken is attendance at the Logic and Rhetoric Gerard Manley Hopkins Poetry Competition. Please consider joining The Oaks family on Tuesday, February 24th, at 6:30 p.m. for a beautiful evening of poetry competition.***

Warm regards,

Grammar School Teachers