January 29, 2024

Dear Parents,

Each year at The Oaks, students have the opportunity to participate in a class speech meet. This is training toward the Logic and Rhetoric stages of learning. Today your child is bringing home information regarding the **Classroom Speech Meet to be held Monday, March 18th through Wednesday, March 20th** (the time for each class has yet to be determined). Thank you for taking time to help your child choose and master his or her selection. Please have your child submit their piece to their teacher **no later than Friday, February 16th.** The following guidelines should be used in making a decision:

CATEGORIES:

- **Poetry (grades 1-6)** Please steer clear of silly, crude, or trite poems. Please make selections that are good, true, and beautiful, that are worth storing in your bones the rest of your life. 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:

- **Friday, February 16th:** 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 12th:** Memorization deadline - to be checked by teacher no later than this date.
- **Monday, March 18th through Wednesday, March 20th:** Final speeches will be performed in front of the class and adjudicated by adult judges. Parents and guests are welcome to attend!
- **Tuesday, April 2nd:** 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 heart. We hope your child finds this assignment to be both interesting and fruitful. Thank you for your help in preparing your child.

Grammar School Teachers