



FunFest 2026 Public Speaking Competition Rules Middle School



Objective: To encourage students to improve their ability to present themselves and communicate better with others through competition.

Entries and Judging

Participants: MCS has a maximum of thirty (30) entries for Middle School. Teams may consist of 1 to 2 individuals.

Submission: No pre-submission

SCC Judge: Maggie Bozovich, Instructor, Communication

Judging Location: Logan Hall, Room 109

Notes: None.

Determining the winner: Judges will evaluate the speech using the provided rubric.

Competition Rules

The speech should be 2 to 3 minutes in length (no time warnings will be given) and must be developed from one of the following topics:

- The importance of kindness
- How does bullying affect a person's self-esteem
- What does good leadership look like?
- Is it important to have Diversity & Inclusion in middle school?
- What is effective teamwork?

3 minutes is the maximum time for a team presentation, the judges will stop teams at the 3-minute mark if they are still presenting.

- The participant may use notes or note cards.
- Each individual speech must be the result of its own independent work.
- Facts and working data may be secured from sources. There must be 3 sources within the speech. o “according to ____ (author or entity), in _____ (publication or website), on _____ (date of publication or date of access) ...”
- The student members, not the teachers, must prepare presentations and speeches.
- 1 visual can be used, but no props, no PPT's, no electronics
- Students must be in professional dress

FunFest Public Speaking Rubric

Speaker: _____ School: _____

I. INTRODUCTION (2 pts. each) _____ Greet, give name, and hook the attention of audience _____ Provide relevancy for audience by “answering” their “what’s in it for me” (WIIFM) to hear speech _____ Establish a personal connection to the topic or credibility through experience or education in the topic _____ State a thesis and give a preview of main points _____ Transition into first main point	_____/10 pts
II. BODY _____ Provide variety of evidence (10 pts. total): _____ _____ Avoid fallacies (-5 points for each fallacy used) _____ Give in-speech references to 3 sources and qualify them as needed (30 pts. total) _____ Have a clear organizational structure as cause/effect, problem/solution, or “Motivated Sequence” and logically / smoothly transition between main points (5 pts.)	_____/45 pts
III. CONCLUSION _____ Transition into conclusion with a review of the thesis and summary of main points (4 pts.) _____ Deliver strong and viable “call to action” (5 pts.) _____ Express simple gratitude to end speech (1 pt.)	_____/10 pts
IV. DELIVERY (1 pt. each) _____ Nonverbal behaviors are purposeful (gestures, facial expressions, body movements, etc.) _____ Volume of voice is easily heard _____ Rate and tempo match speech content _____ Inflection is varied _____ Eye contact is sustained with the camera _____ Filler sounds or words are not distracting (ums, ahs, OKs, you knows, and likes, etc.) _____ Poise is maintained if mistakes are made _____ Notes are glanced at and NOT read word-for-word _____ Words and names are correctly pronounced and enunciated _____ Environment facilitates a polished and professional demeanor	_____/10 pts

