

Battle of the Books

February 1, 2018 Update

We are excited to have three teams of fourth and fifth grade students competing in the Battle of the Book competitions this year. They are Book Masters, Pygmy Puff Book Worms, and Rams Discovery Readers. We have several third grade students who have been reading and practicing with the teams. Third grade students are not able to participate in the official competition this year, but will be well prepared for next year. Many sixth grade students also joined in the reading and assisted the fourth and fifth graders in building excitement around this event.

Team members have divided up the responsibility of reading the 20 books for the competition. It is important for the success of the entire team that all fourth and fifth grade students who registered participate in the competition.

Our first battle will be after school next week Tuesday, February 6, 2018. The battle location is at Northeast Middle School, 1305 E. Sugnet Rd. in Midland. The team members will travel via school bus to the written battle, leaving school about 3:15 p.m. We are leaving shortly before the end of the school day to be out of the parking lot before dismissal. Mr. Mayer, Curriculum Director, Mrs. Doyle, Media Specialist, and Mrs. Robinson, Guest Teacher, will travel with the students. The battle officially begins at 4:30 p.m. and will take approximately 45 minutes. We will then return to Renaissance, and expect to arrive shortly after 6:00 p.m. All students participating in the battle will need to be picked up from Renaissance at this time.

Parents may drive separately to attend the battle if they choose; however, it is important to note that no spectators are allowed during the actual competition. All parents, teachers, and team coaches will be asked to wait in an adjacent classroom while the teams compete in the cafeteria. Results of the battle will be shared with the teams after the librarians have finished their scoring, usually the next day.

During the written battle, the librarians will read aloud each question twice. They will not repeat the question after the second time. Teams will have a brief time to confer, and one team member will record the team's response on their answer sheet. Teams will also need to identify the author of the book the question is referencing. Teams earn four points for each correct answer and one point for each correct author. There are 30 questions in the written battle. The students have been practicing answering questions and identifying authors for several weeks.

46 teams from schools in Isabella, Midland, Bay, and Saginaw counties are competing in the first round at three different locations. The top scoring 23 teams will move on to the second round. If we successfully make it to the second round, the next written battle takes place in the same way. Round two is also held at Northeast Middle School in Midland on Tuesday, February 13 at 4:30. We will again travel by school bus. The top 16 teams from this battle advance to the oral battles held on Saturday, February 24 at the Grace A. Dow Library in Midland. Teams are assigned either a morning or afternoon session and spectators are allowed. Finally, the winning morning team will compete against the winning afternoon team in the championship battle on Thursday, March 1 at 4:30 p.m.

The best way for students to prepare is to read! First and foremost, participating in this event is meant to be fun and continue to help build a love for reading in our students.

Please call or email if you have additional questions.

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