



ROCKY MOUNT
HUMAN RELATIONS
THE CENTER OF IT ALL

2023 Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest Rules

General Information:

- Oratorical competition to be held Saturday, January 7, 2023, at 9:00 AM at the Imperial Centre Theatre located at 270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount, NC.
- The individual speeches will also be available on YouTube, allowing family member who can't attend to enjoy them.
- Each applicant must be dressed appropriately. Absolutely no jeans, sweatpants, t-shirts, wind suits or athletic shoes will be allowed.
- Females are to wear attire such as a dress, pant suit, dressy skirt and top. No skirts above the knees or tight pants are acceptable. Males are to wear dress pants, shirts, and ties. A dress coat is recommended but not required.
- Each student will receive a Certificate of Participation.
- Winners in both categories will receive: first place - \$175.00; second place - \$150.00 and third place - \$125.00.
- If something happens during the week and you are unable to participate, contact Mr. Archie Jones @ 972-1180 or the Human Relations office @ 972-1181.

Speech Presentation:

- Theme – Grades 6-8 – **“The Time is Right to do What is Right”**.
- Theme – Grades 9-12 – **“The Time is Right”**
- Speeches will be limited to three (3) minutes.
- Do not state your name. Mention that you are participant “A”, or “1” etc.
- Speech should have an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- Speech should clearly reflect the theme’s message.
- Be very familiar with speech; do not rely totally on notes.
- Maintain proper eye contact – look at the audience as much as possible.
- Work on your body posture – do not lean on podium, do not rock, sway, or pace during speech, do not flicker at hair or other objects.
- Avoid sighing or loud breaths.
- Eliminate the “ums” and “uhs”, Pronounce words clearly.
- Use energy in your voice.
- **Practice, practice, practice!**

“Thirty-five years of building today, a better tomorrow for ourselves, our communities, and our world”