

# MEMORANDUM



ROCKY MOUNT  
HUMAN RELATIONS  
THE CENTER OF IT ALL

**To:** Principals, Guidance Counselors, English/Social Studies Teachers,  
Parents and Students

**From:** Michael Parker, Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission Chairperson

**Cc:** Archie Jones, Human Relations Director

**Date:** September 21, 2022

**Re:** Oratorical Competition

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The Rocky Mount Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission invites students in grades 6-12 to participate in the Thirty-fifth Annual MLK Oratorical Competition during the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration in January 2023. The Oratorical Competition will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Imperial Centre at 270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount NC, 27804.

The speech theme for students in grades 6-8 is **“The Time is Right to do What is Right”**. For students in grades 9-12, the theme is **“The Time Is Right”**. The maximum time for the presentation is three (3) minutes.

If necessary, the Imperial Center staff will implement a plan that will address all the social distance requirements. The individual speeches will also be available on YouTube, allowing family members to enjoy them.

There will be first, second and third place winners in both categories of the competition. First place winners will receive \$175.00, second place - \$150.00 and third place - \$125.00. All participants will receive certificates of participation.

Please distribute the attached applications, guidelines, and consent forms to interested students and return them by Tuesday, January 3, 2023, to: Human Relations Department, 331 S. Franklin Street, Rocky Mount, NC 27804 or fax them to 252-972-1554.

Thank you in advance for your time and dedication. For additional information contact Archie Jones at (252) 972-1180 or [archie.jones@rockymountnc.gov](mailto:archie.jones@rockymountnc.gov).

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