

Dear Teacher,

The Optimist Club of Hammond is proud to announce the annual Optimist International Oratorical Contest for local youth. This year's contest is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25th, 2015 at Wicker Park Social Center on Ridge Road and Indianapolis Boulevard in Highland (entrance at stoplight on Prairie and Ridge Road).

This contest is conducted annually by the local Optimist Club as well as Optimist Clubs all over the world. The official topic of this year's contest is "***How My Optimism Will Help Me Press on to Greater Achievements of the Future.***" Contestants must speak on the subject between four and five minutes. Scoring is based on poise (20%), content of speech (35%), delivery and presentation (35%), and overall effectiveness (10%). Also, please note that boys shall compete against boys and girls against girls in separate contests. However, the district has the right to decide to have combined gender contests. I will let you know if this is the case.

Enclosed you will find the official oratorical application entry form and rules for the contest. Please photocopy enough copies for your students. You may download copies of the application entry form at www.Optimist.org. Certificates will be given to all participants, and medallions will be awarded to First, Second, and Third place winners in both boys and girls contests. Also, the first place winner will be eligible for further competition in the Zone, Regional, and District competitions with the top prize being a \$2,500 scholarship.

Since its start in 1928, the Oratorical contest has become the longest-running program sponsored by Optimist International. The contest is designed for youth to gain experience in public speaking and provide them with the opportunity to compete for a college scholarship. If you are interested in entering one or more contestants, please contact me by February 18th, or sooner so that proper arrangements can be made. *We may have to limit the number of contestants from each school depending on the amount of participation.* The students, coach, and parents (limit of two guests per contestant please) are invited to dinner which will be served at 6:00 p.m. The contest will begin immediately after dinner (approximately 6:45 p.m.).

In the interim, please feel free to contact me with any questions at 219-577-6199. I look forward to hearing from you and your students.

Sincerely,

Michael Vlasich

Michael Vlasich
78th Optimist President
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