

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS – COMPETITION GUIDELINES

Battle of the Books is open to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. There can be any configuration of 3rd, 4th and 5th graders; however, there cannot be three 5th graders on one team. The Battle of the Books list will consist of 15 books.

Round 1

A written test is administered in each school to all students who wish to participate. The twelve (12) students with the highest scores are chosen to practice for the "Battle."

Round 2

An in-house competition will be administered following the rules of the competition as described below. There will be 4 teams of 3 students, to form 2 brackets. The coach will choose the school team from the winners of the in-house competition. Alternates may also be chosen at this time.

Note: This round is optional. The way each school selects its team will depend on the number of participants.

Round 3

The team from each participating school will compete in this round. There will be a bracket composed of teams from 3 or 4 schools. These teams will compete at the chosen sites following the rules of competition as described in "Competition Rules."

Round 4 Final

The winning teams from each bracket will compete together in the final round.

Competition Rules

Competitions will consist of 90 questions, plus 5 questions for a tiebreaker if needed. A short break will be taken after the first 45 questions.

There will be one moderator (who reads the questions). This person preferably will be a coach whose team is not competing or a person who is familiar with the books and competition rules.

Judges will be the coaches from each participating team. There will be two score keepers (can be parents –not from same team), one person to operate the buzzer system and announce the time (can be a parent), and one person to maintain a "leader board" to post scores as the competition progresses (can be a parent).

Questions will be read only once. The moderator will read the question and if stopped by the buzzer, the team will be given fifteen (15) seconds to answer. Team members may talk to each other while deciding the answer to give. However, only the captain may give the team's answer. If the team answers incorrectly and the question has not been completed, the moderator may repeat the question. The next team to attempt the answer will have ten (10) seconds to do so. There will be only two buzzes per question.

If the question is not answered correctly after two teams have tried, then the question is thrown out.

Should a question of procedure arise during the competition, judges must resolve the inquiry at the time of occurrence. Once the competition is over, the results become final.

If a wrong answer is given, that team is assessed a penalty and will NOT be allowed to answer the next question. If a team member other than the captain answers, that answer is considered incorrect. No points will be given and the team will be penalized in the usual way.

Complete titles must be given as answers but omitting *a*, *an*, or *the* will be permitted. One point will be awarded for a correct title. A team can earn an extra point by giving the last name of the author if they have answered the title correctly. The team with the most points at the end of the questions will be declared the winner. If necessary, five (5) questions from the bonus list will be used as tiebreakers.