



Old Dominion Association of Church Schools

January 7, 2021

Important Update ODACS Virtual Competition for 2021

Dear Friends,

If your school is planning to participate in the 2021 ODACS Competition, then please read this update carefully!

AACS National Competition

AACS will be hosting a virtual competition. There has been much brainstorming going on between the national office and state offices recently, and we anticipate an update from AACS early next week. Meanwhile here are some basic details.

- The deadline for submitting entries will be Friday, March 26.
- There has been much discussion about the feasibility of certain categories.
 - Bible Quizzing will *not* be conducted in a virtual format but in person, if it can be arranged. Temporary rule changes would be adopted in order to mitigate the potential for the spread of COVID-19. The date and location are still matters of discussion.
 - Bible Memory and Spelling will be live virtual events. AACS will publish details.
 - Extemporaneous Speaking will probably take place, but AACS will issue special instructions for proctoring the drawing of a topic, monitoring the 30-minute preparation period, and recording a video of the speech.
 - Debate is likely to be canceled.
 - It is still uncertain whether Science Fair competition will take place.
- All other categories will require contestants to submit either a video or photographic entry. AACS will publish detailed instructions.

Level III Competition; Level I and Level II Competition

Level III competition will be held first in order to ensure that the entire competition process can be completed in time to submit entries for national competition. Level I and Level II entries will be due at a later time. Of course, nothing will prevent a school from completing Level I and Level II entries earlier than the scheduled submission deadline.

Bible Quizzing

Bible Quizzing will be conducted in person if it can be arranged and if current COVID-19 rules permit. One school has expressed interest in hosting an event. We will do our best to give you more information soon.

Timeline for ODACS Competition

Registration forms for **Bible Testing, Academic Testing, and Creative Writing** competition will be published soon and will be due in the ODACS office by Friday, February 5, for all three levels. Tests, topics, and instructions will be delivered digitally this year; entries may be submitted either digitally or by mail. Level III entries are due in the ODACS office by Friday, March 5. Level I and Level II entries are due in the ODACS office by Friday, April 9.

Registration forms for all other categories for all three levels will be published soon and will be due in the ODACS office by Friday, February 26.

Bible Teaching, Bible Preaching, Music, and Speech entries, including Extemporaneous Speaking, will be submitted by video. Level III entries will be due by Friday, March 5. Level I and Level II entries will be due by Friday, April 9.

There will be no ODACS debate competition this year. However, schools that have students who are interested in participating in debate may inform the ODACS office. ODACS will in turn inform all interested schools so that they may discuss the possibility of scheduling debates among themselves.

Bible Memory Competition will be conducted live via Zoom. Each contestant will be required to have an adult monitor in the room to ensure compliance with rules and instructions. Instructions will be sent to schools that register contestants. A single, state-wide competition will be held for each level. The Level III competition is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, at 10:00 a.m. The Level I competition is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, at 10:00 a.m., and the Level II competition is scheduled for April 13 at 1:00 p.m. If a contestant is sick at the time of competition, the school may enter a substitute contestant.

Spelling Competition will be conducted live via Zoom. Each contestant will be required to have an adult monitor in the room to ensure compliance with rules and instructions. Instructions will be sent to schools that register contestants. A single, state-wide competition will be held for each level. The Level III competition is scheduled for Thursday, March 11, at 10:00 a.m. The Level I competition is scheduled for Thursday, April 15, at 10:00 a.m., and the Level II competition is scheduled for April 15 at 1:00 p.m. If a contestant is sick at the time of competition, the school may enter a substitute contestant.

Art entries will be submitted photographically, except for **Videography** entries, which of course will be submitted by video. Instructions will be sent to schools that register contestants. Level III entries will be due by Friday, March 5. Level I and Level II entries will be due by Friday, April 9.

There will be no ODACS Science Fair competition this year.

Judging

Judging for Level III categories will take place between March 5 and March 19. Judging for Level I and Level II categories will take place between April 9 and April 23.

Awards

Ribbons will be awarded for individual and for group categories. No school trophies will be awarded. For each particular category, all entries from across the state will be judged and ranked one time. From that single adjudication, both regional-level and state-level awards will be calculated. The top three contestants in each region will be awarded regional ribbons. Regional winners will be compared in accordance with current rules for advancing to state competition, and then the top three contestants will be awarded state ribbons. As is customary, groups will be awarded a single ribbon for the school, and individual contestants will have an opportunity to purchase ribbons for their group categories.

Competition Fees

While ODACS will not incur all of the usual expenses related to competition this year, we will still incur significant competition expenses for awards, technology, and labor in the ODACS office. Competition fees will be assessed at the regional rate, \$3 for an individual category and \$9 for a group category. Those fees will be considered sufficient to cover all competition; in other words, no state-level fees will be assessed. Because of the possibility of attrition due to COVID-19, fees will not be due until all competition is completed.

If your school is going to opt out of this year's competition altogether, please let me know soon. Knowing for certain who does and does not plan to participate will help us with planning. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Dan Zacharias
Executive Director