**Art Exhibit**

**Grades 6-8**

 **This exhibition has categories in drawing, painting, sculpture, and miscellaneous. Artists submit original works to be exhibited and evaluated by a panel of judges, who will award contestants with ribbons.**

**Calculator Applications**

**Grades 6-8**

 **The contest consists of problems which may include calculations involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, roots, and powers. It also includes straightforward calculation problems and simple geometric and stated problems similar to those found in textbooks.**

**Dictionary Skills**

**Grades 6-8**

 **This contest tests a student’s ability to find information in a dictionary effectively and efficiently. Each test consists of approximately forty objective and short answer questions in which students use a dictionary.**

**Editorial Writing**

**Grades 6-8**

 **In this competition, the contestant will read facts about an issue before writing an opinionated essay (much like a newspaper editorial) which opposes or defends a policy or action.**

**Impromptu Speaking**

**Grades 6- 8**

 **Contestants will draw three topics and have three minutes to prepare a speech, which must be presented without any notes. The contest gives the participant experience in thinking, organizing, formulating clear thoughts, and delivering those thoughts to an audience effectively.**

**Listening Skills**

**Grades 6-8**

 **Contestants will be asked to actively listen to a variety of material and to critically analyze and evaluate a speaker’s message. The test will measure skills such as identifying the main idea and supporting ideas, listening for details, drawing conclusions, distinguishing fact from opinion, and mastering other listening & thinking skills.**

**Maps, Graphs, & Charts**

**Grades 6-8**

 **This contest will measure skills such as using an atlas as a reference book to locate information, making comparisons, estimating and approximating, using scale and interpreting grid systems, legends, and keys.**

**Math**

**Grades 6-8**

 **This contest includes problems covering, but not limited to: numeration systems, arithmetic operations involving whole numbers, integers, fractions, decimals, exponents, order of operations, probability, statistics, number theory, simple interest, measurements and conversions. Geometry and algebra may be included as appropriate for the grade level.**

**Modern Oratory**

**Grades 6- 8**

 **The contestant will write in advance a persuasive speech (3-6 minutes long) about one of five set topics, then deliver the speech entirely from memory. The contestant must determine critical issues of the topic and explore both sides of the issue before choosing a position to defend.**

**Music Memory**

**Grade 6-8**

 **The focus of the music memory contest is an in-depth study of fine pieces of music literature taken from a wide spectrum of music genres and composers. Students should be able to describe and analyze the music, to evaluate musical performance, and to relate the music to history, society, and culture.**

**Number Sense**

**Grades 6-8**

 **Contestants will be asked to make quick mental calculations and decisions with numbers. Concepts covered include, but are not limited to: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, proportions, and use of mathematic notation.**

**Oral Reading**

**Grades 6-8**

 **In this contest, students shall read a selection of prose or poetry. Each selection may be a single reading, an excerpt from a longer selection, or a combination of several selections. The contestant chooses the poetry or prose to be read.**

**Ready Writing**

**Grades 6-8**

 **Contestants are given a choice between two prompts which defines the audience and provides the purpose for writing. Students will analyze the prompts for the purpose of writing, the format, the audience, and the point of view. The format could be a letter, an article for the newspaper, or an essay for the principal.**

**Science**

**Grades 6-8**

 **The emphasis for the science contests will be placed on knowledge of scientific fact, understanding of scientific principles, and the ability to think through scientific problems. The contests are designed to test not only memory, but also the ability to think critically about science and scientific processes and concepts.**

**Social Studies**

**Grades 6-8**

**This contest is designed to encourage students to expand their knowledge of social studies, particularly in the areas of history, government systems, economics, citizenship, & culture. Students will be given a test of 40 questions with a 30 minute time limit.**

**Spelling**

**Grades 6-8**

 **Contestants will be tested on the ability to spell proficiently, write clearly, and capitalize properly. Students will write down words given by the pronouncer at a rate of approximately five words per minute.**

**Chess Puzzle**

**Grades 6-8**

 **Chess puzzle competition is very different from tournament chess play. Contestants in a chess puzzle contest receive a paper-and-pencil test that includes a series of chess boards with pieces in particular positions. The contestant must then determine the fewest moves to checkmate given that particular board layout. Time is also a factor - contestants are scored based on the most puzzles solved in the least amount of time.**