

13th Annual Superintendent's Public Speaking Contest

“Public Speaking is the art of giving power to words – to influence, inspire and transform lives. “

~Dirish

The Buffalo Trail Public School Superintendent's Public Speaking Contest provides an opportunity for students in BTPS to be involved in an event that will display their public speaking abilities. The competition is meant to acknowledge the importance of public speaking as an essential skill for today's youth.

Date: Tuesday, April 15th, 2025 @ 9:30 a.m. **Place:** J.R. Robson School – North Training Center

Competition Categories - Three categories will be established. Two general category topics are indicated in each category and students will be given the latitude to expand on either topic in a direction of their choosing.

Elementary Division - Open to students currently enrolled in Grade 4, 5 or 6

Speech Length: 2-4 minutes

- Topics:**
- 1) **The Power of Kindness: How can small acts of kindness change the world?**
 - 2) **Why Mistakes are Important: How can we learn from failure?**

Junior High Division - Open to students currently enrolled in Grade 7, 8 or 9

Speech Length: 3-5 minutes

- Topics:**
- 1) **What makes a great leader?**
 - 2) **The Future of Technology: How will innovation shape our world?**

Senior High Division - Open to students currently enrolled in Grade 10, 11 or 12

Speech Length: 5-7 minutes

- Topics:**
- 1) **What is the definition of success from a youth perspective?**
 - 2) **What ethical dilemmas arise in the age of technology?**

Contest Regulations

- Contest is open to students who are currently enrolled in a BTPS school.
- Schools can nominate a maximum of 1 (one) candidate in each of the competition categories (A school level competition may be held to identify the candidates to be nominated).
- Speakers may not use visual aids or gimmicks. A gimmick is any device or stunt used to distract the audience, such as clothing, costumes, props, singing a song, using taped music in the background, or leading a cheer or chant. Gestures are acceptable and are defined as a subtle, physical action that is meant to highlight or support a verbal message. It should not distract the audience and at no time should there be audience participation.
- Speakers must write a new and original speech (defined as having done their own research, scripting and presenting) each year.
- Sources of information used in the speech must be acknowledged. For example, an article from a magazine may be used for reference but should not be quoted directly unless you tell the audience your source.
- The decision of the judges shall be final.
- Scholarship prizes shall be awarded in the following format:
 - 1st and 2nd place will be recognized in each of the three categories. Each Gold Medal recipient will have their name engraved on the ***Superintendent's Annual Public Speaking Award*** and this award will be placed on display in the Superintendent's Office. Gold and Silver Medal recipients will be provided with the corresponding medal and the following monetary prize:

Elementary Division: Gold Medal – \$100.00 Silver Medal - \$50.00
Junior High Division: Gold Medal – \$200.00 Silver Medal - \$75.00
Senior High Division: Gold Medal – \$300.00 Silver Medal - \$100.00
- Lunch in a bag will be provided to all students and staff. You are welcome to join us for lunch or take the bag on the go. We understand many participants have a long drive.
- This event will be livestreamed for parent/guardian viewing. The link will be shared through the participant's school.