



EVENTS MANUAL

LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TOURNAMENT Orange County 2025

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY IRVINE
1530 Concordia West
Irvine, CA 92612

CONTACT:
Brianna Soto
Assistant Director of Visit and Event Services
(949) 214-3145
brianna.soto@cui.edu



LUTHERAN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TOURNAMENT OC

Table of Contents:

Table of Contents	p. 2
Welcome to LEST	p. 3
History + Philosophy	p. 4
Event Details	p. 5
Visual Art	p.6-7
Basketball (Boys + Girls)	p.8
Battle of the Books	p.9-11
Chess	p.12-13
Esports	p.14
Math	p.15
Music	p.16-17
Piano & Instrumental Adjudicated Recital	
Youth Chorus	
Handbells/Handchimes Adjudicated Recital	
Recording Studio Masterclass	
Robotics Masterclass	p. 18
Science Exposition	p. 19
Spelling	p .20-21
Theater	p. 22-25
Writing	p. 26
Champion of Character/ Golden Eagle Award	p. 27

Welcome to LEST!

Working together is the heart of Concordia.
President Michael Thomas, Concordia University, Irvine



Concordia means “harmony” in Latin. Concordia can also be used to describe agreement, reconciliation, and being of one mind. It is in the spirit of Concordia that the faculty and staff of Concordia University Irvine are humbled and excited to build on nearly 60 years of tradition of the Lutheran Elementary School Tournament held at Concordia University Portland.

While we are saddened at the closing of Concordia Portland, we are thrilled to work together with the Lutheran schools of the Western United States to host “LEST OC” for many years to come.

An event like this takes many hands. I want to personally thank the faculty, staff, and leadership of Crean Lutheran High School for their partnership in making this a successful event for all. I also want to thank the faculty and staff of Concordia for their tireless work to make this a reality. We are very excited to welcome you to our beautiful campuses in Orange County this February!

I look forward to greeting you and watching you compete at “LEST OC 2025.” We collectively are praying for each of you as you prepare to participate in this event.

For His Students,
Dr. Michael Thomas
President, Concordia University Irvine

History & Philosophy



THE FIRST LEST WAS HELD IN 1962 AT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY PORTLAND. THAT FIRST YEAR, 4 SCHOOLS WERE INVOLVED. TODAY WE LOOK FORWARD TO HOSTING THE LEST OC EVENT WITH PARTICIPANTS FROM LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FROM ACROSS THE WESTERN UNITED STATES

LEST is a ministry of Concordia University Irvine, in partnership with Crean Lutheran High School and elementary schools of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

LEST started as a ministry of Concordia University Portland in partnership with elementary schools of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Today, Concordia University Irvine proudly carries on the tradition. LEST is based on the value of Christian education that emphasizes the love and praise of God, thankful use of personal talents, and service to others. The primary goal of LEST is to provide an organized structure to promote fun, skill development, fair play, and fellowship among our Lutheran communities through academics, athletics, and the arts.

The tournament offers a variety of individual and team events that facilitate participants' emotional, intellectual, physical, and spiritual growth. Participation and maximal involvement for each school is encouraged. It is the position of LEST that participation in competition can facilitate optimal growth and development. By focusing on doing one's best (instead of overemphasizing winning), it is hoped that competition will promote healthy and positive feelings of self-esteem along with a desire for lifelong participation in academics, athletics, and the arts.

General Guidelines:

A majority of the services and facilities provided for the tournament are donated. There are, however, rental fees, adjudicator honorariums, and miscellaneous expenses associated with LEST. To help defray some of these expenditures, a Participation Fee is assessed to each school participating in LEST. This is a one-time fee to be paid at the time of registration.

Guidelines for participation in academic and athletic events along with criteria for contest evaluation, are detailed in the pages that follow. Schools may register for LEST by completing the Registration Form on the LEST website.

Event Details



Schedule:

LEST OC 2025 will be held February 14-16, 2025. Events will take place from Friday through Sunday noon. Since many activities will occur simultaneously, schools are encouraged to involve as many students as possible and help students make choices between events that could have conflicting schedules.

A Tentative Schedule of Events will be sent out and posted by October 21, 2024

Supervision:

Each school is responsible for supervision of their students during all LEST events. Parents and school administrators of unsupervised youth will be contacted and appropriate discipline measures will be implemented. Administrators are requested to secure appropriate health forms and emergency information for each participant and submit these forms for the LEST Team prior to arriving at LEST. Emergency numbers for the LEST Team will be provided on the LEST website.

Visual Art



Description

The Visual Art LEST Juried Exhibition provides students with the opportunity to share artwork and be recognized for their God-given talents and creativity. Our goal is to encourage students to create and express themselves. All students submitting artwork will receive feedback, and award recipients will be showcased in the Concordia University Gallery.

Event Coordinators:

- Rachel Soo, Visual Arts Department Chair- Concordia University Irvine
- Sara Fletcher, Associate Professor of Studio Art- Concordia University Irvine
- Leah Dawson, Visual Art Department Chair- Crean Lutheran High School

Additional Details:

All artwork submitted to the Visual Art LEST Juried Exhibition must be original designs (nothing copied from magazines, cards, pre-packaged craft projects, anime or comic characters, etc.). Students can choose any art medium (2D, 3D, digital, graphic design, etc.). To give judges plenty of time to evaluate each piece of artwork, schools must submit photographs of their artwork to Concordia University Irvine no later than January 30th. Comments will be given for each submitted artwork received by the January 30th deadline.

LEST Visual Art Exhibition and Reception:

An exhibition of student work will be displayed on Concordia's campus during the LEST tournament, February 14-16. Concordia Visual Arts Department will host an artists' reception showcasing selected student artworks on Saturday, February 15th, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (tentative).

Artworks receiving special awards will be notified by email and included in the LEST art exhibition. Artwork receiving special awards should be hand-delivered or mailed to Concordia's Visual Arts department. Artwork must be received by 10 a.m., Friday, February 14th, to be included in the exhibition. A designated school representative may pick up the artwork on Sunday before or directly following the closing ceremony, or the artwork will be returned via mail.

Acknowledgment of special award recipients will occur at the Closing Ceremony.


Visual Art continued



How to Participate:

Each school will photograph and email art entries to rachel.soo@cui.edu by January 30, 2025. The email should include an image list with thumbnail-size images of the artworks, the artists' names, the medium, and the dimensions of the art piece. Please observe the limit of 10 total pieces of artwork per school, one piece of art per student. The attached photo must also be labeled with the artist's name, grade level, school, and city (i.e. ryansmith_6_stpauls_orange.jpg). Photographs submitted may be included in a slideshow at LEST and should be clear, not warped, and without shadows. Accurate labeling is critically important for judging. Please submit JPEG or PNG file format only.

Basketball 7th & 8th Grade- Boys & Girls



Overview:

The basketball tournament is one of the original events of LEST. There is a boy's tournament and a girl's tournament each year with the number of divisions determined by how many teams submit entries. Schools are asked to commit themselves to repeated participation in the tournament rather than one-time or occasional play.

Event Coordinator:

- Tim Odle, Vice President of University Operations- Concordia University Irvine
- TBD

Tournament Bracketing and Schedule:

LEST 2025 has one bracket for boys, and one bracket for girls. The tournament is double elimination, and each team will be guaranteed two games. Games will be played at Concordia University, Irvine on Friday February 14th and Saturday February 15th. Championship games will take place at Concordia University Irvine on the morning of Sunday February 16th. The LEST website (www.cui.edu/lest) will be the most current location to follow the brackets during the event.

Referees:

The referees are hired professionals. Full cooperation from all schools and fans during the basketball competition is expected. Schools should specifically address the issue of Christian sportsmanship with their teams and supporters prior to attending LEST.

Rules:

All games will be regulated by the rules of the Lutheran Basketball Association of America (LBAA) with the following exceptions:

1. Quarters will be 6 minutes long.
2. No full court press will be permitted after a 20-point lead is attained. After the first infraction, the team will be warned. Every following infraction will result in a technical foul.
3. Each school will bring a home and away jersey.

Scorebooks and scorekeepers will be provided for each game of the tournament. Before each game begins, the designated home team should plan on having a coach or other representative lead an opening prayer.

How to Participate:

Each school must register their team(s) via the Registration Form on the LEST website. A copy of each team's roster is to be submitted by December 2, 2024. A draft of the tournament bracket and schedule will be emailed early February or before then.

Battle of the Books



Overview:

Battle of the Books is a quiz bowl-style reading competition that promotes reading quality books from a range of genres (list included below). Student teams answer trivia questions about the books, earning points in an effort to advance from the first to the second round. The team with the highest cumulative score at the end of round two is declared the winner.

Event Coordinators:

- Kate Harkins, Parent Volunteer- Christ Lutheran Costa Mesa

Book Titles:

- *A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story* by Linda Sue Park
- *The Boys in the Boat: The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics* (Young Readers Adaptation) by Daniel James Brown
- *City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau
- *The Elephant in the Room* by Holly Goldberg Sloan
- *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling
- *Rez Dogs* by Joseph Bruchac
- *Surviving the Applewhites* by Stephanie S. Tolan
- *Swindle* by Gordon Korman
- *Top Secret Files: The Civil War, Spies, Secret Missions, and Hidden Facts From the Civil War* by Stephanie Pearce
- *When Stars Are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed

Teams:

Each team must be comprised of **no fewer than two and no more than five students**. Schools may have more than one team, provided the first team includes the maximum five players (e.g., a school may have a team of five and a team of three, but may not have four teams of two). **Each team must nominate a Captain**. The Captain is the only member of the team who may provide an answer to questions for judging.

Competition Structure:

1. Round One consists of 24 questions per team battle (12 questions per team). Once the Reader finishes the question, the team has 30 seconds to discuss and determine their response before the Captain provides the team's response to the Judge. Teams may only answer a question once, regardless of the amount of time remaining before an answer is required
2. If the question is answered correctly, play passes to the other team. If the question is answered incorrectly, the other team has the opportunity to "steal" the question and answer it themselves.
 - a. If a team wishes to steal, the Captain must raise their hand **immediately after** the Judge indicates the initial response to the question was incorrectly answered **and before** the Reader begins the next question.

Battle of the Books continued

- b. The Reader will read the question again, and the team has 10 seconds to confer before the Captain must provide the team's response.
- c. Note: Regardless of whether the team "stealing" answers the question correctly or incorrectly, they answer the next question; play does not pass back to the original team.
3. After 12 questions have been answered (six per team), there is a 30 second break. Scores will be announced. If a team wishes to "challenge" an incorrect response from any of the first 12 questions, they must do so at this point.
 - a. A challenge occurs when a team believes they correctly responded to a question the Judge ruled incorrect.
 - b. A team may only "challenge" questions they have been asked or attempted to "steal."
 - c. When a team requests a "challenge," they have one minute to locate evidence in the text that supports their answer. At the conclusion of the one minute, the team presents the page(s) in the book where the answer can be found. The Judge then determines whether the challenge was successful, in which case the team will earn points for the question. If the challenge is unsuccessful, the team will lose the points for the question from their overall point total (see below for additional information on this penalty). **A Judge's decision is final.**
 - d. Each team is provided a "courtesy challenge." This means a team can challenge a question without risking any points. All failed challenges beyond the first that are deemed unsuccessful by the Judge will result in the loss of points from the point total. Teams are **not** required to use their courtesy challenge.
 - e. New point totals are announced.
4. At the conclusion of the round, scores are announced, and each team has 30 seconds to "challenge" an incorrect response from the previous 12 questions (following the procedure outlined above).
5. Once all teams have completed the first round, the top two scorers will advance to Round Two. This round proceeds in the same manner as the first.
6. At the conclusion of Round Two, scores from Round One and Round Two are combined. The team with the highest combined score is the competition winner.
 - a. If there is a tie (for first place only), the tying teams will compete in a shortened 12 question round against one another. The team that wins the shortened round is declared the competition winner.

Correct Responses

1. Questions all begin with the same stem, "In which book . . .?" The response the Captain provides must include the complete title of the book, including subtitles, (e.g., *Top Secret Files: The Civil War, Spies, Secret Missions, and Hidden Facts From the Civil War*, not *Top Secret Files*) and author's name as it appears on the book's cover.

Example Question and Answer:

Question: In which book are two people wanted for spreading vicious rumors?

Answer: *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau

Battle of the Books continued

2. A correct title earns the team five (5) points. A correct author's name earns the team two (2) points. No partial points are awarded for partially correct titles or partially correct author's names, but a team can earn title points without earning author points and vice versa.
3. While we encourage students to have memorized book titles and authors' names (and correct pronunciations), we want to reward students who know the answers to questions. Students may still earn points for book titles that omit articles (*a*, *an*, and *the*) and author's names pronounced incorrectly, provided they are still discernible to the Judge.
4. A note on challenges: Although every effort is made to ensure that questions have only one correct response, errors may happen. Most often challenges occur because there is more than one correct answer to a question; as a result, if a team earned points for a correct answer within the round, they will not lose their points, even if the Judge deems the challenge successful (i.e., both teams are awarded or keep their points because, more often than not, both responses are correct).

Additional Information

1. While we encourage students to read the books on the list, we also recognize students learn and engage with books in different ways; therefore, it is acceptable for students to listen to audiobooks or adult readings of the titles.
2. Along the same lines, while we encourage students to read or listen to all the titles on the list, we also recognize not all students will be able to complete the entirety of the list by competition day. A student need not have completed all the books in order to participate in the competition. We suggest team coordinators do their best to ensure that at least one team member has read each of the books on the list; this creates a team comprised of "experts" whose knowledge is limited, but deep, making it still possible to win the competition.

Chess



Description:

The LEST Chess Tournament is a competition conducted using the United States Chess Federation (USCF) National Scholastic Chess Tournament Regulations as a guide. For LEST 2025, there are three divisions to the tournament (5th/6th combined, 7th, and 8th Grades). There will be individual awards for the champion in each division. Participants should plan to be at the entire chess session. Each participant will likely play three-to-four matches.

Event Coordinators:

- Dr. Christian Hauser, Associate Professor of Music- Concordia University Irvine
- Micah Hauser, Chess Facilitator & Assistant

General Regulations:

1. All games will be played with standard tournament chess sets which will be supplied by Concordia University.
2. Clocks will not be used, except at the referee's discretion.
3. A referee will be present who will adjudicate or clock games when necessary or at the referee's discretion. The referee's decisions will be final.
4. Each school must have an advisor present at the start of round one to ensure that players understand and follow all instructions.
5. Coaches/parents will be allowed in the competition room as long as they are silent and stand only behind their student/child - not facing them - and refraining from emoting/gesturing, whispering, etc. After each game finishes, players will immediately leave the tournament room to review their game with coaches, parents, and/or teammates outside of the competition room.
6. Standard Chess Etiquette (behavior) is expected from all players, including:
 - No talking allowed except to say "check," "adjust," "resign" and other necessary chess statements.
 - If you have questions about moves or feel a mistake has been made, call the referee IMMEDIATELY. It is impossible to make corrections once other moves are made.
 - If you touch a piece, you must move it.
 - If you touch an opponent's piece, you must take it (if possible)
 - Be sure your board is set up correctly: with a black square on your LEFT corner, the white queen on her white square, the black queen on her black square.
 - Players should keep track of their moves using a chess score sheet (provided by CUI).

Winners should notify the chess tournament director after their match has concluded to have their victory registered on the tournament bracket.

Additional Details:

All participants must be present at the check in time (8:00 am) so that play can begin on time. All participants will be scheduled to play three games. This tournament will follow the Swiss System, using computer software to make the pairings, keep the scores, and calculate any necessary tie-breaking.

Chess continued



A Swiss tournament is similar to a Round-Robin tournament in that no players are eliminated. Every player will play every round, and the player with the highest number of points at the end of the tournament is the winner. In a Swiss tournament one does not necessarily play every other player.

Swiss Scoring System:

Loss: +0 points

Draw: +0.5 point

Win: +1 point

.5 points for a "bye" if there are an odd number of players.

For questions about Chess, please contact the LEST Chess Director Christian.Hauser@cui.edu

ESports



Description:

The LEST ESports event will feature teams competing against each other in Rocket League, a vehicular soccer video game. The event will be coordinated by Concordia Eagles Gaming Association in an exciting tournament style format. Competing teams will be made up of two participants from any grade level. Schools will likely be allowed to enter more than one team in the competition pending registration numbers. The event will be emceed and tailored to allow spectator viewing of the action.

Event Coordinators:

- Andrew Nguyen, IT Services - Concordia University Irvine
- Evan Sanders, Social Science Teacher & Head Robotics Coach- Crean Lutheran High School

Additional Details:

All competitors must pre-register on the LEST Registration Form. All equipment will be provided by the host school, however participants are welcome to bring their own equipment (i.e. mouse, keyboard, controller, etc.). The bracket style tournament will be double elimination with competition ranging from best-of-3 to best-of-5. The championship round will consist of a single elimination, best-of-5 round, where the winner of the round will be declared the victor of the tournament.

Rules:

Good sportsmanship is expected by all participants and spectators. Participants should use appropriate language when playing and no spamming is allowed in game chat. No food or drinks are allowed in the computer room.

Math



Description:

The Math event allows students interested in mathematics an opportunity to exercise their quantitative and logical reasoning skills in both an individual and team context, and provides an opportunity for fellowship among LEST participants. Team members should be present at the Math event for the entire time.

Event Coordinators:

- Dr. Melinda Schulteis, Professor of Mathematics - Concordia University, Irvine
- Natasha Sanders, Mathematics Teacher - Crean Lutheran High School
- Matt Potthoff, Mathematics Teacher - Orange Lutheran High School

Additional Details:

The LEST math competition will engage students in mathematical inquiry through both individual and team exercises. The individual event will consist of students completing sets of individual exercises based on their grade level. The team event will have students working within their school teams to complete mathematical exercises in a fun and interactive format. Both the individual and team events will be scored based on completeness, correctness, and time for completion. Recognition will be awarded for both individual and team accomplishments.

Each school may enter two teams, a Varsity team and a Junior Varsity team. A Varsity team is made up of up to four team members from the 7th and 8th grade, with no more than two 8th graders. A Junior Varsity team is made up of up to four team members from 5th and 6th grade, with no more than two 6th graders. Alternates for the team event may be used if a team member is absent. Additional individual participants can participate in the individual portion of the math competition without being on a team, up to an additional four students. These student scores are eligible for individual awards, but may not be used for team scoring.

Objectives of the Math Event:

1. Demonstrate mathematical reasoning
2. Work cooperatively
3. Exercise making sense of problems and perseverance in solving them
4. Demonstrate grade specific content standard understanding
5. Clearly communicate mathematical ideas
6. Have fun being creative with mathematics

Music



Description:

The LEST Music Event will provide student participants a rich, interactive experience with faculty from Concordia University. Opportunities will include a variety of vocal and instrumental activities. Students will engage in events side-by-side with inspiring role models. Various musical opportunities will be available on Saturday, with a culminating concert featuring selected instrumental performers and the Youth Chorus.

The Concordia Music Department has a strong reputation for cooperative, joyful learning in a faith-based atmosphere. Student participants are invited to be a part of a similar atmosphere, to utilize the Borland-Manske Center, one of Southern California's premium music learning centers, and we hope that it will lead to further enthusiasm for participating in music!

Event Coordinators:

- Recording Studio Masterclass - Professor Steve Young (Associate Professor of Music, Director of Commercial Music, Concordia University Irvine)
- Piano & Instrumental Adjudication Recital Piano & Instrumental Adjudication Recital- Dr. Chrsitain Hauser (Associate Professor of Music, Director of Music Education) and Hyunjoo Choi (Adjunct Professor of Piano, Concordia University Irvine; Director of Concordia's Summer Piano Festival)
- Youth Chorus - Dr. Christian Hauser (Associate Professor of Music, Director of Music Education, Concordia University Irvine)
- Handbell Adjudicated Recital - Erik Der (Handbell Instructor, Concordia University Irvine)

Goals:

1. To give honor and praise to God for the wonderful gift of music.
2. To encourage the study of music among our young people.
3. To encourage mastery of performance and musical technique.
4. To provide a unique forum for the sharing of music with peers.
5. To give recognition to, and praise God for, those who excel in this gift.

Events:

1. **Piano & Instrumental Adjudicated Recital** - Each soloist performs a 2-5 minute work, followed by 2 minutes of interactive feedback from a Concordia adjudicator. The recital is open to the public, and will last 90 minutes.
2. **Youth Chorus** - Led by a Southern California Choral expert. Each school performs 2-3 pieces, not to exceed 10 minutes total. The adjudicator provides written or recorded comments,, then provides a hands-on mini-workshop with each ensemble workshop addressing one or two musical recommendations to improve their performance.
3. **Handbells/Handchimes Adjudicated Recital** - Each ensemble performs one piece. The recital will also include some brief pedagogical presentations by Concordia's handbell department. Schools may request to use Concordia University's Handbells + Handchimes instead of bringing their own. Concordia University has Malmark bells, and there are standard (C3-C8) five octaves of bells and 4 octaves of hand chimes. Please indicate on the registration form if you plan to attend Concordia University's handbells + handchimes.

Music continued



- 4. Recording Studio Masterclass** - Concordia's Commercial Music Professor Steve Young will give an overview of Concordia's state of the art recording studio. Professor Young will also share insight for developing young musicians' skills to be a recording musician. Located in the lower level of the BMC Music Building—recording studio.

Frequently-Asked Questions:

Will all these music events happen simultaneously or could a student participate in multiple offerings The music events will be scheduled in an attempt to maximize participation by students interested in multiple offerings. There will be limited schedule overlap.

May we have more than one handbell group perform? And can we perform more than one song? Yes, more than one group can perform from each school. Each group can perform up to two songs.

Robotics



Description:

LEST 2025 will feature a Robotics competition using human-controlled VEX IQ robots. The VEX IQ robotics system is a middle school version of the VEX V5 system used by the Robotics programs at Crean Lutheran.. Assisted by engineering teachers and students, participants will become familiar with VEX parts, the basics of programming, and how to build a robot to complete simple tasks. The session will include a series of challenges for students to complete, culminating in a robot vs. robot team competition. The event will give students an idea of what participation in a high school robotics program entails. All materials will be provided.

Event Coordinators:

- Joshua Tallman, Assistant Professor of Computer Science- Concordia University Irvine
- Jon Rutherford, Director of Technology - Crean Lutheran High School
- Jon Bennett, Engineering Cohort Advisor, Science Teacher - Crean Lutheran High School

Science Exposition



Description:

The Science Exposition allows students interested in science an opportunity to match their problem solving skills against other students with similar interests and provides an avenue for fellowship among LEST participants. Team members should be present at the Science Exposition the entire time.

Event Organizers:

- Faith Silzel, Lab Manager- Concordia University Irvine
- Savanna Winchel, Chemistry Teacher- Crean Lutheran High School

Additional Details:

The LEST science competition will engage students in scientific exploration which requires strategic and systematic use of the scientific method. The scenario to which students will apply their science skills will be given at the competition and does not require prior knowledge or content background. For the 2025 LEST, schools will have teams of 2 students participate. Alternates may be used if a team member is absent.

Teams should plan to be present for the entire Science Exposition event. In the event that a team is late, they will receive a brief summary of the directions from a volunteer and start the competition with the time remaining. Tardies do not merit additional time or adjustments in scoring.

One adult is allowed to accompany each team in the competition room at any given time. If multiple adults associated with a team would like to observe the competition, they will need to set up rotations. The accompanying adult will be asked to supervise their competitors, and take photos and videos of their team to share with those adults who are not able to be present. While in the room, the accompanying adult may not participate in the competition, talk with competitors, or talk with volunteers.

Objectives of the Science Exposition:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method.
2. Work cooperatively.
3. Develop a testable hypothesis.
4. Conduct an experiment to test their hypothesis.
5. Critically analyze data results.
6. Demonstrate ability to implement conclusions.

Spelling

Description:

The 2025 LEST Spelling event allows students to showcase their orthography skills in a supportive environment. In this event, participants from all grade levels compete together. The rounds will begin with 5th grade words, and slowly increase in difficulty round by round.

Awards will be given to the top finisher in each grade level.

Event Coordinators:

- Dr. Barbara Howard, Assistant Professor of Education- Concordia University, Irvine

Additional Details:

- Each school is permitted to enter two representatives for each grade level. Alternates will only compete if the main speller is unable to participate.
- All participants (including alternates) will meet in the designated room at the specified time for the oral spelling bee.
- There will not be a written qualifying test prior to the oral LEST Spelling competition.
- Spelling lists are not published or distributed by LEST. It is suggested that schools help their student representatives find word lists with which to practice from their school spelling curriculum or through websites designed to help students prepare for Spelling Bees.

Rules:

The 2025 LEST Spelling event rules, including the procedure followed when only two spellers remain, are included below.

First and foremost, the LEST Spelling event is meant to be a form of friendly competition. The students are striving to do their best and to gain confidence in front of an audience. The audience should be reminded that their only function is to provide positive support and encouragement for the event. All decisions of the lead judge are final.

The format will be as follows:

- A. The competition will be an oral Spelling Bee.
- B. The word will be pronounced according to the diacritical markings in Webster's Third New International Dictionary (unabridged). The word will then be used in a sentence, and it will be pronounced again.
- C. The participant will say the word, spell the word, and say the word again.
- D. If the word is not spoken by the student after spelling the word, the student will be asked to say the word, and then the judge will make the determination of whether the word has been spelled correctly.
- E. The judge may not disqualify a speller for failing to pronounce a word either before or after the spelling.
- F. Having started to spell a word, a speller may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning, but in retracing there can be no change of letters or their sequence from those first pronounced. If letters or their sequence are changed in the respelling, the speller will be eliminated.
- G. A contestant is allowed only 30 seconds to spell a word. The judge may disqualify any contestant who ignores a request to start spelling.

Spelling continued

- H. Upon missing the spelling of a word, the speller will walk to a designated area. If any of the remaining spellers spell their words correctly, then the spellers who missed their words will sit down at the end of the round.
- I. If none of the spellers spell a word correctly during the round, all spellers will remain in the contest. All of the spellers eliminated in the same round will be tied for the same place.
- J. If at the end of a round only ONE speller has spelled her/his word correctly, then that speller will be declared the winner for their division. If the remaining divisions have not identified their winners, then the pre-eliminated members from the other divisions will be invited back up to continue with the next round until a winner has been decided for their respective divisions.
- K. If at the end of a round ONLY TWO contestants remain, the competition will proceed as follows:
 - a. The winner will be the contestant who spells a word correctly that the other contestant misses, plus one additional word. When both miss a word in the same round, each is still in the competition.
 - b. We will continue in this way even if the remaining two are in different divisions and each will be the champion of their division. If the remaining two are from the same division and the other divisions have not identified their winners, then the pre-eliminated members from the other divisions will be invited back up to continue with the next round until a winner has been decided for their respective divisions after the initial winner has been decided from the original remaining two.
- L. The judge's decisions will be final.
- M. If more than one spelling is listed for a word in the official Webster's Dictionary, any of these spellings shall be accepted as correct if the word either matches the pronunciation and definition provided by the pronouncer or if it is clearly identified as being a standard variant of the word the contestant has been asked to spell. If a word has one or more homonyms, the pronouncer will indicate which word is to be spelled.
- N. Any questions relating to the spelling of a word must be referred to the judge immediately by the speller or the speller's coach before completion of the round in progress. No protest can be entertained after a round is completed. Only contestants or their coach may question the spelling of a word. The judges' decision is final in all situations.
- O. To protect privacy, no picture-taking is allowed during the competition.
- P. Contestants and their families/supporters should remain seated until indicated break times between rounds, or until the end of the competition. It is very distracting to the contestants when people enter or exit the room during the competition.
- Q. To eliminate confusion and to protect privacy, all contestants will be given a number to wear, and these numbers will be tracked through each round.

Again, please remember that this is to be a form of friendly competition. The students are striving to do their best and to gain confidence in front of an audience. The audience has one function, which is to provide positive support for the event. The decisions of the judges are final.

Theater MONOLOGUES



Description

The purpose of the LEST Monologue Performance evaluation process is to provide each participating student with helpful feedback in the hopes of commending the notable achievements of each performance and offering solutions to the aspects where performances could improve. This is intended to be an educational tool, not strictly a review or critique. Each participant will receive an aggregate of the adjudicators' evaluations to share with students, administrators, and others at their discretion.

Event Coordinators

- Tony Vezner, Professor of Theatre- Concordia University, Irvine
- Leslee Myers, Director of Performing Arts- Crean Lutheran High School

MONOLOGUES

SPECIFIC RULES

- The time limit for monologue performances is 3 minutes. After the introduction (slating), time begins with the first word or acting action (if it proceeds the first word). If a student exceeds the time limit, the judge will notate the time and a final eligibility ruling will be determined.

Acceptable material:

o Non-musical performance categories:

Selections from full-length or one-act plays or musicals, written for the theatre, and published

- Students are encouraged to choose pieces that speak to them. Copyright rules must be followed - which means no alteration.
- No performance may be filmed for rebroadcast or other use.

Specific Rules for Monologue Performances

In Acting (monologues), the skills measured are:

- Use of transitions into and out of character
- Ability to create a believable character
- Communication of the character's objective, tactics, and relationships
- Use of focus and concentration
- Integration of voice, body, movement, and staging

In a monologue performance, the entrant must follow these guidelines:

- Begin with an introduction (slating). The introduction must include only:
 - o The entrant's name
 - o Title of both selections
 - o Name of the playwright(s)

Theater continued



- **Remain within strict time limits:**

- o After the introduction (slating), time begins with the first word or acting action (if it precedes the first word).
- o Monologues are not to exceed 3 minutes.

- **Appropriate material:**

- o Prepare two selections.
- o Monologues should represent two contrasting selections (may be different in period, style, or mood).

- o Each selection should be approximately one to one and one-half minutes each.
- o Each selection should reflect an important moment in the play.
- o Only one character from each play may be portrayed in each selection.
- o Prior to the event, validate the material using the guidelines for acceptable material.

- Participants will present themselves as a blank slate, refraining from clothing or accessories that distract from the character.

- **Follow strict limits on clothing and props:**

- o Props (including hand-held props), costumes, or theatrical makeup are not allowed.
- o One chair may be safely used.
- o Participants must wear all black. Clothing and shoes must be all black. Any visible color, including white, will result in a disqualification.
- o Clothing should be professional yet allow easy movement for the actor to accommodate the action of the performance.
- o Participants should refrain from wearing anything that might distract the adjudicators.
- o Failure to follow any of the guidelines in this document will result in a disqualification.

Scoring

A performance-based assessment rubric is used for all categories.

- The ratings are (4) Superior, (3) Excellent, (2) Good, and (1) Fair.
- The ratings tabulate to a numeric total ranging from 4 to 24, depending on the number of criteria included in the individual rubric. Please familiarize yourself with the rubrics, scoring, and critique sheets.

- **To determine an entrant's rating:**

- Add up the scores in the far-right column, and enter the totaled score at the bottom.
- Based on the total, circle the indicator of achievement to the left of the column.
- For an entrant's overall rating, average the total numeric scores of the three adjudicators. Average scores will be rounded up to the nearest whole number; for example, an average of the three judges' scores of 17.5 rounds to 18. A 17.4 will not round up to 18 but down to 17.
- Student guidelines for each area are included in this document to help entrants understand adjudication.

Theater continued

Function of the Adjudicator

The most important function of the adjudicator is to serve as an educator. True, they must recommend outstanding plays, but adjudication without Drama (Monologues and Duos) a carefully prepared critique, which teaches as it criticizes, deprives play festival participants of a most valuable feature: the opportunity for qualitative improvement.

An effective critique requires, among other things, extensive knowledge of all styles and types of drama, and an understanding of the physical theatre with special concern for limitations often imposed upon the various performing areas in the province. The successful adjudicator must be able to discuss the plays they have seen in a firm but courteous manner. They must be objective, direct, and detailed in their criticism without imposing personal opinions dictatorially.

The adjudicator has the special responsibility of evaluating seriously the efforts of the actor, and of treating them and their performances with respect. Through many hours of rehearsal, they have sought to perfect creative performances for the satisfaction which comes through the search for perfection in the arts.

The adjudicator should use their skills and experience to make each Festival a pleasant and richly educational experience in the lives of participants as they seek to understand more fully the art of theatre.

Adjudication Guidelines

1. Adjudicator SHOULD:

- Realize that you should be critically constructive making suggestions which they may use to improve their work.
- Understand that most actors try as hard as they know to be effective.
- Whenever possible, find something about the performance which you can honestly commend.
- Be specific in criticizing the production and use examples from it.
- Keep your personal opinion of the playwright and script to yourself.

2 Adjudicator SHOULD NOT:

- At any time comment about the play. It may not be the best play for a particular actor to perform, but the adjudicator has no responsibility in a Festival to be publicly critical of the actor's choice of play.
- Criticize only in a negative way. Try to be constructive. It is your duty to help the director to improve their work.
- Make a "performance" of your critique. Do not "act a role" before a captive audience.
- Redirect the plays. Suggestions are always in order, but let the director interpret them for their company and use them as they see fit.
- Embarrass the actors, during either public or private adjudication. This includes use of sarcastic, ridiculing or belittling remarks.
- Make any of the following or similar remarks:
 - a. "I didn't like your play."
 - b. "I would (or would not) have done it this way."
 - c. "This play did not challenge the actors."
 - d. "You should have tried a newer play. This one has been done so often." "What can you expect with a play by this author?"
 - e. "I'm so tired of seeing that play."

Theater continued

- f. "As an actor, you were playing to type (or were typecast)."
- g. "You were not the right actor for this role."
- h. "This role is beyond your capabilities as an actor."
- i. "I didn't like your interpretation of this role."
- Spend critique time trying only to justify your decision.

Adjudicator Standards for Evaluating

- Voice: Could you hear the actors distinctly? Was the rate too fast or too slow? Was there a variety of rate and inflection? Was pronunciation and articulation properly done for each character? If dialect was used, was it done correctly and naturally?
- Characterization: Was there a complete bodily and mental recreation of the character by the actor? Were their reactions to other actors correct and effective? Did we "believe" the actor's characterization all the time they were on the stage?
- Movement: Were the movements of the actors in keeping with their characters?
- Contrast: Were there clearly contrasting moods in the dialogue? Were emotional transitions natural and effective? Were the lines delivered in a manner natural to the characters in the play?
- Preparation: Was there a smoothness of action that indicated adequate rehearsal and close co-operation and understanding of the play among the actor?
- Timing: Did the actors pick up cues properly? Was the production static in places because the actors seemed to lack a correct sense of pace?
- Motivation: Was there a logical reason for all business

Theater - Duos

Description

The purpose of the LEST DUOS Performance evaluation process is to encourage good collaboration and provide each participating pair of students with helpful feedback in the hopes of developing strong student-to-student communication and teamwork while commending the notable achievements of each performance and offering solutions to the aspects where performances could improve. This is intended to be an educational tool, not strictly a review or critique. Each participant will receive an aggregate of the adjudicators' evaluations to share with students, administrators, and others at their discretion.

DUOS

SPECIFIC RULES

- The time limit for duo performances is 5 minutes. After the introduction (slating), time begins with the first word or acting action (if it proceeds the first word). If students exceed the time limit, the judge will notate the time and a final eligibility ruling will be determined.

Writing



Description:

Description: The LEST Writing Event is an opportunity for students to experience drafting, revising, and performing an original piece of writing. This event coaches students through the writing process, where they will craft a poem, receive individual instruction and feedback on their writing, and then share their piece in a warm, celebratory setting.

Event Coordinators:

- Jessica Jaeger, English Department Chair- Crean Lutheran High School
- Kerri Tom, Professor of English- Concordia University Irvine
- Zoë Litzenberg, Assistant Director of the Writing Studio- Concordia University Irvine

Additional Details:

No prior writing is required for participation; all materials will be provided!

Schedule:

This LEST event will take two hours total, with lots of opportunities for breaks, and include the following schedule of events:

Creative Writing Instruction: Writers will be welcomed into a writing space on CU's campus and be led through a poetry lesson, where they will get to read and learn about a specific poetic form.

Open Writing Time: Writers will have time to write their own original piece in the style of the lesson.

Engaged Writing Workshop: Writers will engage in a one-to-one consultation with university trained writers, who will give them helpful feedback to strengthen their writing.

Writing Celebration: Writers will share their crafted, revised piece with each other in a classic "open mic" format, where they will be able to celebrate their progress with the other participants in the workshop.

Champion of Character

Golden Eagle Award



Description:

As part of LEST, each participating school is asked to nominate one student from their school that models and strives to live as a Champion of Character. The Champions of Character representative from each school must be a 6th, 7th or 8th grade student participating in at least one LEST event. As part of the LEST Closing Ceremony, the LEST Champion of Character recipient will be given the Golden Eagle Award and will be recognized by Concordia University for their positive leadership.

Champion of Character Qualities:

- Integrity
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Sportsmanship
- Servant Leadership

Nomination Process:

Each school participating in the Champions of Character/ Golden Eagle Award should:

- Select one LEST participant from grades 6th-8th
- List the LEST events/competitions in which the student is participating in.
- Write a description (one paragraph) that tells how the selected student models the Champions of Character values in their life.
- Submit the Champions of Character Nomination paragraph to the LEST Coordinator (Brianna Soto at brianna.soto@cui.edu) by February 1, 2025.