

Interfaith Center for Racial Justice (ICRJ)

“...invoking a community of respect and Justice”



33rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration of Macomb County Elementary School Oratory Contest

Theme: **Love is Spoken Here**

Overview: Macomb County elementary students are invited to submit a video recording of their recitation of a passage adapted from a 1968 speech of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. titled, “Loving Your Enemies”

Rules and Regulations

1. Eligibility-Elementary school students in Macomb County
2. Time Limitation – Two minutes will be permitted for orations
3. Presentation of Oration
 - a. A team of 2 contestants will record a delivery of the passage from memory
 - b. Contestants will introduce themselves by stating in complete sentences: “Judges, ladies and Gentlemen, we are...”
 1. Name (first and last) and age
 2. Teacher and grade
 3. School and city
4. Deadline for submissions
5. Contestants must upload a video recording of the oration to the internet(e.g., YouTube) and email the link and contact information (name, phone number, school, teacher’s name, and email address) to: mlk2020@att.net and smcbrady@misd.net
6. Teachers and parents are permitted to assist the contestant during the preparation and with the video recording of the speech, however teachers/parents should avoid offering prompts and assistance in delivery of the speech.
7. Contestants will be evaluated on the following criteria:
 - a. Accuracy
 - b. Composure (self-confidence, audience appeal)
 - c. Voice Quality (audibility, articulation, inflection of voice)
 - d. Posture and physical dynamics (proper use of gestures)
 - e. Observance of time limit
8. The decision of the judges is final
9. Finalists will be contacted by Friday, January 3, 2020

Prizes

- The winning team will receive a total of 3 tickets (finalists and 2 guests) to the 2020 MLK Holiday Celebration. Held on the evening of January 20, 2020 at Dakota High School.
- The winning team will perform their recitation live at the 2020 MLK Holiday Celebration
- The winning team will receive a pizza party for their class sponsored by Moms of Macomb (MOM)

Understanding of Publication: All contests materials are the property of the Interfaith Center for Racial Justice. By submitting a video, you confirm that you understand that your video, whether a winning entry or not, may be used in whole or in part, royalty free, in any printed or electronic media and in promotional materials, including fundraising and online publications.

For more information, contact:

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Sean McBrady, Social Studies Consultant, Macomb ISD: smcbrady@misd.net or 586-228-3465

Passage for recital (Excerpted and adapted from Dr. King’s speech delivered at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, November 17, 1957)

There is something about love that builds up and is creative. There is something about hate that tears down and is destructive.

You begin hating somebody and you begin to do irrational things. You can’t see straight when you hate. You can’t walk straight when you hate. You can’t stand upright. Your vision is distorted. There is nothing more tragic than to see an individual whose heart is filled with hate.

For the person who hates, the good becomes bad and the bad becomes good. For the person who hates, the true becomes false and the false becomes true. That’s what hate does. You can’t see right. Hate distorts the personality of the hater.

But love...

Love has within it a redemptive power. And there is a power there that eventually transforms individuals. Love your enemies. Because if you hate your enemies, you have no way to transform your enemies.

But if you love your enemies, you will discover that at the very root of love is the power of redemption. You just keep loving people and keep loving them, even though they’re mistreating you.

Just keep being friendly to that person. Keep loving them. Don’t do anything to embarrass them. Just keep loving them, and they can’t stand it too long.

There is something about love that builds up and is creative.

MLK