

Dear Parents,

This year the Media Center is participating in Battle of the Books with the Archdiocese Schools. The Archdiocesan competition will be held May 8th at St. Jude Catholic School in Sandy Springs. This will involve the third through sixth grades.

Battle of the Books is a reading comprehension competition between teams of students testing reading, studying, memory, and teamwork skills. During the competition students are asked “Jeopardy style” questions about the content of the books they have read and studied during the past few months.

Any group of three to four students may form a team in their grade level by making arrangements with the library staff. No changes in membership can be made to a team once it has been formed. If a member is absent during competition, the remaining players play as a team with no substitute. There will be an elimination competition at Holy Spirit (Donnellan campus) between the teams of the same grade level during April to practice for the final match but also to eliminate the other teams. Only one team from each grade level may participate in the Battle of the Books at St. Jude.

All of the classes (3rd-6th) have been informed about Battle of the Books. There is a list of books for each grade level. Each member of a group will read approximately 5 books from this list. Some of these books are Scholastic books and others have been previously read by our students. I will help them divide up the list so that they each get a fair amount.

This is an extracurricular activity. If your child is interested, talk with them about the time element and whether it might interfere with their academic work. We will need your permission as well as the student’s signature that they will stay with their group until May. Initially, they are reading their 5 selected books or reviewing ones they have already read and taking notes. Then, some time in February and March after school, I will work with each group separately before they compete in April at Holy Spirit. We will have several practice competitions to get them used to the process. The last two weeks in April is when the elimination competitions will take place. Please do not plan any absences for your child during those two weeks.

Attached is the permission slip required for participation in this activity. You and your child should sign and return it to me in the Media Center in order to participate. I will be officially setting up the groups next week. I will have the teachers review the list of interested students first to make sure they do not feel that a student volunteering needs the time for academics.

I think this activity will be great fun as well as beneficial to the participants. It will also be entertaining for the audience when they watch the April playoffs.

Thank you for your support.
Linda Ehlers
Library Media Specialist
Holy Spirit Preparatory School

**Battle of the Books
Permission Slip/Student Contract**

This gives _____ permission to participate in Battle of the Books.
Student's name

I understand that this is an extracurricular activity and by signing this Student Contract, I am committing to read my books by February, to participate in the February and March coaching sessions and April and May elimination competition. I also understand that should my team be picked to represent Holy Spirit Preparatory School, I will participate in the Archdiocese competition on May 8th. at St. Jude.

Battle of the Books Permission Slip

Student's Signature:

Date:

Parent's Signature:

Date:

Please return by Friday, November 30, 2007 to:

Linda Ehlers
Library Media Specialist
Holy Spirit Preparatory School