

Please remember Academic UIL Participation is MANDATORY for NJHS members.

Start thinking about what event or events you are interested in participating in. More information about practice times and coaches for each event will be available this upcoming fall during the school year.

UIL Event Descriptions

Category 1 Events

Maps, Graphs, and Charts

The maps, graphs & charts contest is designed to help students learn to get information from a variety of maps, graphs and charts including world maps, pie charts, bar charts and local area maps. The objective test will measure skills such as using an atlas to locate information, making comparisons, estimating and approximating, using scale and interpreting grid systems, legends and keys. Students will be given an objective test containing approximately 50 multiple choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions which must be answered in 30 minutes.

Best Student: Starts everything before time! Every answer is perfect including units and is done super fast!

May also be good at: Dictionary and Social Studies

Oral Reading

Reading literature out loud provides opportunities for students to analyze the text, to grow and to develop as a performer, to communicate a message to an audience and to perform an artistic creation. The oral reading competition should be an extension of the classroom literary and language arts activities in poetry, short stories and children's fiction. Students in grades 7 and 8 read selections of prose or poetry.

Best Student: Enthusiastic, speaks well in front of a crowd, likes to perform

May also be good at: Impromptu Speaking and Modern Oratory

Ready Writing

Contestants are given a choice between two prompts which defines the audience, and provides the purpose for writing. Students should be encouraged to analyze the prompts for the purpose of writing, the format, the audience and the point of view. The format may be, for example, a letter, an article for the newspaper or an essay for the principal. There is no minimum or maximum number of words the contestants must write. This is creative writing, not STAAR writing!

Best Student: Good writer with spelling and grammar skills. Usually has a very unique perspective on a story.

May also be good at: Spelling

Science

Each test will consist of approximately 35 multiple choice questions. Such concepts include, but are not limited to: matter and energy, equilibrium, force and motion, physical and chemical properties, the relationship between organisms and the environment, the components of our solar system, the composition of matter and genetics.

Best Student: Has a really huge trivial body of scientific knowledge

May also be good at: Social Studies

Category 2 Events

Calculator

Students will take a test containing 80 problems in 30 minutes. The contest consists of problems which may include calculations involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, roots, and powers. It also includes straight-forward calculation problems, and simple geometric and stated problems similar to those found in recently adopted textbooks.

Best student: Likes to solve problems with a calculator, very meticulous

May also be good at: Math and Number Sense

Modern Oratory

In Modern Oratory, the seventh and eighth grade contestants will select one of the topics, determine the critical issues in the topic, and acknowledge both pro and con points citing support discovered in their research. Students will choose a side they will defend and support that side with additional evidence.

Best Student: Likes to try and persuade people, speaks well in front of a crowd, likes to inform

May also be good at: Impromptu Speaking and Oral Reading

Spelling

Students will take a test consisting of 60 words coming from the published UIL spelling list. For the most educational value, preparation for this contest should include instruction in the rules of the English language, meanings and definitions, and root words. In addition to learning to spell proficiently, contestants will learn to write clearly and to capitalize words properly. Students will write down words given by the pronouncer on their paper at a rate of approximately five words per minute.

Best Student: Can spell and has a knack for remembering different spelling rules

May also be good at: Ready Writing

Category 3 Events

Impromptu Speaking

Contestants will draw three topics and have three minutes to prepare a speech, which must be presented without any notes.

Best Student: Has a magnetic personality, loves to speak in front of a crowd, likes to perform

May also be good at: Oral Reading and Modern Oratory

Listening

Contestants will listen to a script ranging from seven to ten minutes in length, take notes as needed, and use their notes to answer 25 multiple choice, true/false and short answer test questions. A variety of subject matter will be used for the listening tests.

Best Student: Good note taker, obviously good listener, picks up on minor insignificant details

May also be good at: Social Studies

Math

This test includes 50 multiple choice 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 problems may be included as appropriate for the grade level.

Best Student: Good at math and fast

May also be good at: Calculator and Number Sense

Category 4 Events

Dictionary Skills

Students will take a test consisting of 40 objective and short answer questions to be completed in 20 minutes.

Contestants use dictionaries during the competition, which may be tabbed. Contest questions cover word origins and histories, parts of speech, pronunciation, variant spellings, plurals, alphabetizing and other such elements. Test questions are also taken from charts, tables and lists contained in the dictionary.

Best Student: Can find things very quickly using a resource

May also be good at: Maps Graphs Charts and Social Studies

Number Sense

Students will be given a 10-minute, fill-in-the-blank test which they must complete without doing calculations on paper or on a calculator. Erasures and mark-outs are not permitted. Concepts covered include, but are not limited to: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, proportions, and use of mathematic notation.

Best Student: Quick thinker, good at math

May also be good at: Math and Calculator

Social Studies

Students will take a 30 minute 40 question test. The test topics are defined by a yearly updated study guide and primary source documents. Subjects include Texas History, U.S. History, and World History.

Best Student: LOVES the past and can remember everything he/she sees or reads the first time

May also be good at: Maps Graphs Charts, Dictionary and Science