

PORT COLBORNE FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS



2027 INDIVIDUAL VERSE SPEAKING SYLLABUS

APRIL 26 - 27, 2027

ENTRIES CLOSE JANUARY 31, 2027

"Every day we spend without learning something is a day lost" – Beethoven

RULES & PROTOCOL FOR INDIVIDUAL VERSE SPEAKING CLASSES

Eligibility & Selection Requirements

- **Eligibility:** Open to any student currently enrolled at the elementary or secondary school level. Competitors may enter any class for which they are eligible.
- **Age Calculation:** Age limits are calculated as of **January 1, 2027**.
- **Internet Restrictions:** Selections sourced from the Internet are **NOT permitted**. Non-compliance will result in immediate disqualification.

Performance Guidelines & Presentation

- **Memorization:** All poems must be memorized.
- **Props & Costumes:** Props and costumes are strictly prohibited; however, expressional **gestures are permitted**.
- **Arrival:** Competitors should arrive **15 minutes** prior to their scheduled class time.
- **Stage Etiquette:** Candidates must clearly announce the title of the poem and the author's name before performing. A bow following the performance is expected to acknowledge audience applause.

Scoring, Penalties & Adjudication

- **Time Penalties:** Exceeding designated time limits will result in a **5-mark deduction**.
- **No-Mark Conditions:** Competitors will receive feedback (adjudication) but **NO MARK** if they:
 - Refer to written text or notes during the performance.
 - Fail to provide an **original copy** of the poem to the Secretary for the Adjudicator prior to the start of the class. (*Original copies must be collected immediately after the class*).

Poems can be found in poetry books at the local library. Below is a list of some authors who write suitable poetry for individual verse speaking:

Suggested Authors/Books ~

Shel Silverstein ~

“Where the Sidewalk Ends”

“Falling Up”

Jack Prelutsky ~

“It’s Raining Pigs and Noodles”

“The Frogs Wore Suspenders”

“The Dragons are Singing Tonight”

Dennis Lee ~

“Garbage Delight”

“Bubblegum Delicious”

Bruce Lansky ~

“Kids Pick the Funniest Poems”

“My Dog Ate the Homework”

“Rolling in the Aisles”

INDIVIDUAL VERSE SPEAKING CLASSES – ENTRY FEE \$16.00

Class #

IVS 1. SIX (6) TO SEVEN (7) YEARS

Own Choice – 3 minute maximum

IVS 2. EIGHT (8) TO NINE (9) YEARS

Own Choice – 4 minute maximum

IVS 3. TEN (10) TO ELEVEN (11) YEARS

Own Choice – 5 minute maximum

IVS 4. TWELVE (12) TO THIRTEEN (13) YEARS

Own Choice – 6 minute maximum

IVS 5. FOURTEEN (14) TO FIFTEEN (15) YEARS

Own Choice – 7 minute maximum

IVS 6. SIXTEEN (16) TO EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS

Own Choice – 8 minutes maximum