

Academic Fair --St. Patrick School

Poetry Interpretation

Students must select a *published* poem or group of poems, prepare and present a memorized introduction to the poem within a six-minute time limit. There is no minimum time limit; however suggested time limits for Grades 1-4 are about 2-3 minutes and Grades 5-8 approximately 3-5 minutes. Although the poem may be presented from memory, contestants are required to hold a transcript which should be placed in a folder or notebook that does not detract from the presentation. Holding the transcript and referring to it at times will prevent the overuse of gestures and prevent the contestant from performing a dramatic monologue. Judging will be based on a memorized introduction, the speaker's understanding of the author's meaning in the selection, voices suitable for the characters, clear and distinct enunciation, use of body and facial expressions appropriate to the selection, and overall effect. During the presentation of the selection, the student's feet should be planted firmly on the ground.